VOL.
18
Blue Wa
Fuuka
KOUJI SEO

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WITH CONCEPTUAL ASSISTANCE BY
YOSHINORI SUGIMOTO

FUUKA
VOL. 18

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WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?
CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE GENTLER, FUUKA?
THEN IT'D BE POINT-LESS!
GRIND
GRIND
GRIND
OW, OW, OW!!
SOME-THING SHELLEY TAUGHT US.
IT'S A WARM-UP TO HELP WITH VOICE PROJECTION.
SHE SAID YOU SHOULD ALWAYS DO THIS BEFORE SINGING.
OKAY, PUSH BACK WITH THE MUSCLES UNDER YOUR NAVEL!
UNGFH!!
HEY, CAN WE GET STARTED NOW?
WHUD
OH-- RIGHT!
SORRY.
WAS THAT AURA I SENSED EARLIER...
...JUST MY IMAGI-NATION?
ZEMA

Fuuka

166 SEND OUT!

WE'RE FILMING THIS FOR A MUSIC VIDEO...
...SO EVERYONE BE SURE TO TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, OKAY?
PRETTY PATHETIC, SHOOTING A MUSIC VIDEO ON A CELL PHONE.
IT'LL BE FINE! CELL PHONES THESE DAYS ARE HIGH TECH, PLUS WE HAVE MY SKILLS!
ALL RIGHT.
...YES.
YEAH!
...
LET'S DO THIS NEW SONG!
OKAY, LET'S DO IT!

"WINGS OF LIGHT."
PWECK
PWECK
PWECK
!!
IT STARTS OUT WITH SLAP?!
WHOA! AWESOME!!
ZWAK
PAAANG

JUST THINK ABOUT WHY THE DRUMMER SITS AT THE BACK OF THE STAGE.
BEING ABLE TO KEEP AN ACCURATE RHYTHM AND ADD FILLS IS EXPECTED OF ANY DRUMMER.
...AND CREATE A "GROOVE."
YOUR JOB IS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS...
THAT BOOSTS THE OTHER MEMBERS' ENERGY AND GETS THE AUDIENCE EXCITED.
BAH
BAAAM
YOU ACCENT THE RHYTHM, AND MAKE IT STRONGER OR WEAKER.
...WITH YOUR OWN POWER!
TAKE CONTROL OF EVERY-THING YOU SEE...

...ARE PHRASES, RHYTHM, MUTING...
THE LIST GOES ON AND ON.
THE THINGS A GUITARIST NEEDS...
...IS "VISUAL APPEAL."
BUT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL...
BWAAANG
THE GUITARIST IS THE "VOCALIST" OF THE INSTRUMENTAL SECTION.
SING WITH YOUR GUITAR PHRASES!!

IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE BASSIST NEEDS TO MAKE SURE THE RHYTHM DOESN'T GET THROWN OFF...
...BUT WHEN PERFORMING LIVE, YOU NEED TO KEEP THAT UP...
...WHILE PLAYING WITH INTENSE MOVEMENTS TO INTRIGUE THE AUDIENCE.
IF YOU PLAY WHILE STANDING PERFECTLY STILL, NO ONE WILL GET INTO THE SONG.
BUT MAYBE GIVING YOU THIS ADVICE...
...WOULD JUST BE MEDDLING, HUH?
GRRK

LEAP
WOW ...!!

THE KEY-BOARD ISN'T ONLY ABOUT PHRASES AND HARMONIES.
UNLIKE WITH CLASSIC PIANO, THE REASON YOU STAND WHEN PLAYING A KEYBOARD...
...IS SO YOU CAN STRIKE THE KEYS WITH YOUR FULL WEIGHT, JUST LIKE ANY OTHER RHYTHM INSTRUMENT!
AND THE SOLO PARTS WITH NO VOCALS ARE YOUR TIME, AND YOURS ALONE.
DURING THOSE, EVEN THE KEYBOARDIST CAN TAKE THE LEADING ROLE!!

THEY'RE AMAZING...
THEY'RE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT DIMENSION THAN BEFORE.
...
WHAT A VOCALIST NEEDS?
YOU NEED A LOUD VOICE AND STAMINA!
THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT.
DON'T MOVE YOUR MOUTH AWAY FROM THE MIC! VOCALISTS ARE TOO QUIET WHEN SINGING INTO OPEN AIR!
AND USE ABDOMINAL BREATHING IN YOUR DAILY LIFE, UNTIL YOU DO IT SUBCONSCIOUSLY!
THAT WAY, NO MATTER HOW WORN OUT YOUR THROAT IS...

...YOU CAN PERFORM AT 100% STRENGTH!!

THAT...

THAT WAS AMAZING!!
YOU GUYS ARE ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D MAKE THIS MUCH PROGRESS!
YOU'RE THE GREATEST! "GREAT" WITH AN "EST"!!
UH... THANK YOU.
FOR REAL, THOUGH...
...THIS SONG TURNED OUT GREAT.

HUH?
OH—NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
...WITHOUT THAT IKOMA HAG FROM ZETA MUSIC GETTING IN THE WAY...
NOW WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT A WAY FOR YOU GUYS TO PLAY FOR A LIVE AUDIENCE...
I JUST STREAMED THAT PERFORMANCE WORLDWIDE ON THE NET!
THAT WAS SO AWESOME!!!! 888888
88888888888
88888888888
888888888888888888
8888888888888 "GREAT" WITH AN "EST" LOL
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR NEW SONG!!
THAT HIT ME HARD!!
8888888888888888888
888888888888888
DO FAIR WIND TOO!
ISN'T IKOMA THE PRESIDENT OF ZETA MUSIC?
WAS IT A GOOD IDEA TO CALL HER A HAG?! LOL
ACTUALLY, AT HARUNA-SAN'S DIRECTION...
HUH?!
YEP. HERE'S YOUR PHONE BACK, HARUNA-SAN.
THANKS.
YOU DID?!
?!

THAT'S YOUR PHONE, YUU-SAN?
YEAH. I BOUGHT IT LAST WEEK.
BUT...
WHY WOULD YOU—
A LONG TIME AGO...
I USED ONE OF THESE TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY AND HIDE IN THE ONLINE WORLD.
BUT NOW I WANT TO USE IT...
MAYBE IF I USE IT THIS WAY... YOU'D SAY IT SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
THAT'S NO FUN...
...IF YOU ASK ME.

...TO SEND OUT OUR MUSIC...
STAY RAD
...TO EVERYONE IN THE WORLD!
GOOD IDEA.
THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN!

SO THE WAY BLUE WELLS WILL PERFORM FOR A LIVE AUDIENCE IS...
...THAT'S RIGHT.
GO FOR IT!!!!!
WHEN ARE YOU GONNA STREAM LIVE AGAIN?!
AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING...
YUU-KUN'S SO CUTE!!!!
WAIT, DIDN'T THEY GET KICKED OUT OF THE SCENE?
I'M ROOTING FOR YOU (`・ω・´)ゞ
I LOVE MIKASA-KUN♥
BLUE WELLS ROCKS!!
YUU-SAN, WELCOME BACK. -BY YAMATO (ADMIRAL)
BOTH THE GUITAR GIRLS ARE GORGEOUS
THE DRUMMER'S TRYING TO LOOK COOL, LOL
...THAT'S WHERE OUR LIVE VENUE IS!!

Yue Wells LIVE
TWINKLING STAR
4.1/5
30,087
BLIM
BLIM
BLI-BLIM

Funka

I SWEAR, THIS WORLD HAS GONE INSANE.
WOW, THAT'S AMAZING.
LOOK AT THIS, MAYA!
THERE ARE 30,000 PEOPLE WATCHING YUU'S CONCERT STREAM!!

UH—
ARE YOU SURE YOU SHOULD BE SAYING THAT?
ISN'T YOUR BOYFRIEND A HUGE FAN OF YUU'S BAND?
YOU SHUT UP!! YOU AND THOSE DUMB T-SHIRTS YOU'RE ALWAYS WEARING!!
NOW, YOU TWO, NO FIGHTING.
WHY DON'T YOU ASK FOR THEIR AUTO-GRAPHS?
HUH?! WHY SHOULD I DO THAT?!

167 STAGNANT.

...GENERATED A BUZZ!!
THIS HAS TOTALLY...

THAT'S GREAT!!
WHA--REALLY?!
AND OUR CHANNEL ON THE VIDEO SITE HAS 53,000 SUBSCRIBERS!!
OUR OFFICIAL SNS ACCOUNT JUST SURPASSED 70,000 FOLLOWERS!!

THAT'S WHAT MADE ME THINK OF IT.
"AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE WATCHING, THAT'S WHERE OUR LIVE VENUE IS."
REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME DURING OUR TOUR, SARA-SENPAI?

PRESIDENT IKOMA CAN'T STOP US FROM PERFORMING IF IT'S A LIVE STREAM.
I THINK THIS WAS A SMART IDEA!

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
STILL, I WISH WE COULD PLAY IN FRONT OF REAL PEOPLE.
VMMM
VMMM

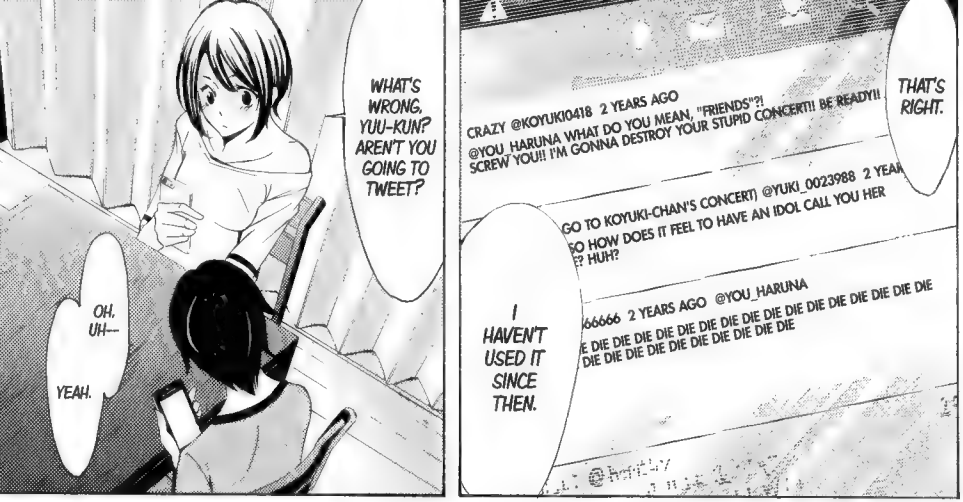
!!
CRACKLE
HEY! LONG TIME NO SPEAK!!
CRACKLE
HELLO?
YEAH?

SO YOU'RE BANNED FROM LIVE MUSIC CLUBS ALL ACROSS JAPAN?! HA HA HA HA!!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GUYS WERE UP TO SOME INTER-ESTING STUFF WHILE I WAS IN THE HOSPITAL!

OH, YEAH, DON'T BOTHER WITH THAT!!
YES. WE WERE GOING TO DO A LIVE CONCERT STREAM.
SO, ANYWAY! DO YOU GUYS HAVE PLANS THIS SUNDAY?!
HUH.
HARD TO SAY! THEY TOLD ME I'LL DIE IF I DON'T QUIT SMOK-ING!
OH— ICHIKAWA-SAN. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER NOW?

I SET UP A TIME SLOT FOR YOU GUYS TO PLAY A SET!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA PLAY, DO IT HERE!
IN EXCHANGE, IF THERE ARE ANY TICKETS LEFTOVER, YOU'RE PAYING FOR THEM!!
LUCKY STRIKE
SO MAKE SURE YOU SELL 'EM ALL!!
LATER!!
HUH ?!
A- ARE YOU SURE ?!
WELL, BENDING TO AUTHORITY WAS NEVER REALLY MY STRONG SUIT, YOU KNOW!
UH--
ICHI-KAWA-SAN JUST SAID--
I HEARD.

CLATTER
WE GET TO PLAY A CONCERT, RIGHT?!
IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE!!
I-I'LL ANNOUNCE IT ON OUR SNS RIGHT AWAY!!
YOU GUYS GET MOVING, TOO!
YEAH!
ALL RIGHT!!
LET'S GO FOR IT!
HEY, AOBA-CHAN, DO YOU THINK WE NEED A HASH-TAG?
DEFINITELY! AND ATTACH YOUR LIVE VIDEO, TOO!!
THAT'LL CATCH PEOPLE'S ATTEN-TION!
OH.
...


WHAT'S WRONG, YUU-KUN? AREN'T YOU GOING TO TWEET?
OH, UH—
YEAH.
CRAZY @KOYUKI0418 2 YEARS AGO
@YOU_HARUNA WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FRIENDS"?! SCREW YOU!! I'M GONNA DESTROY YOUR STUPID CONCERT!! BE READY!!
THAT'S RIGHT.
GO TO KOYUKI-CHAN'S CONCERT) @YUKI_0023988 2 YEAR
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE AN IDOL CALL YOU HER
!? HUH?
I HAVEN'T USED IT SINCE THEN.
666666 2 YEARS AGO @YOU_HARUNA
E DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE

WAAAAAAH!!
!!
WE'LL RECORD IT AND UPLOAD THE VIDEO!
APOLOGIZE TO EVERY-ONE IN JAPAN, YOU BASTARD!
I KNOW YOU'RE HIDING IN THE WINGS! I'LL COME
IGNORE US!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA CALL OFF THE SHOW NOW ARE YOU?!
ME TOO! ME TOO!
S-STOP!! STOP IT!
PLEASE
GIMME YOUR AUTO-GRAPH, KOYUKI-CHAN!

Y-YOU KNOW THERE'S NOT!!
OR IS THERE STILL SOMETHING BETWEEN YOU AND KOYUKI-CHAN?
AREN'T YOU WORRY-ING TOO MUCH?

...WANT TO MAKE ABSOLUTELY SURE.
I JUST...

NAH... I DON'T THINK I WILL.
IT MIGHT REMIND SOME PEOPLE OF WHAT HAPPENED TWO YEARS AGO.
I DON'T WANT OUR CONCERT TO GET WRECKED AGAIN.

IT'S BEEN A REALLY LONG TIME...
...SINCE WE WERE ABLE TO PLAY LIVE, AFTER ALL.

WELL, THAT'S AMAZING, ISN'T IT?
FOR THE VIDEO OF THEIR LIVE STREAM TO GET 600,000 VIEWS IN SEVEN DAYS.
EVEN MAJOR ARTISTS HAVE TROUBLE PULLING NUMBERS LIKE THAT.

I SHOULD EXPECT NO LESS OF THE GENUIS PRODUCER SAORI AMAYA.
I CAN SEE I'M STILL NOWHERE NEAR YOUR LEVEL.
OH, STOP IT.
I HAVEN'T DONE A THING.

IN FACT, I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I CAME CLOSE TO GIVING UP...
...OR HOW MANY TIMES I FELT LIKE BREAKING.
TLINK
BUT EVERY TIME I DID, THOSE KIDS CARVED THEIR OWN WAY OUT...
...AND SHOWED ME WHAT MIRACLES LOOK LIKE.
...
MIRACLES, EH?
I CAN'T DENY THAT EVERYTHING THOSE KIDS DO SEEMS ALMOST GODLY...
WELL, THEN...
I SUPPOSE ALL I CAN DO IS PRAY, HUH?
BUT NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF RESULTS THEY SHOW, I SUPPOSE THE MEDIA ISN'T GOING TO COVER IT.
THEY'RE UP AGAINST TOMOKO IKOMA, THE WOMAN WHO HAS ALL THE MEDIA UNDER HER THUMB.
HUH?
NOT TO STEAL TAMA'S WORDS...
...BUT ONLY THE GOD OF BANDS KNOWS WHAT'S NEXT FOR THEM.

YAMMER
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE BLUE WELLS!!
HEY, DID YOU SEE THE VIDEO OF THEIR NEW SONG?!
WOW.
THEY HAVEN'T PLAYED IN TOKYO IN AGES SINCE THEY'VE BEEN ON TOUR!!
"WINGS OF LIGHT," RIGHT?! WASN'T IT INCRED-IBLE?!
I GUESS THEY'RE REALLY POP-ULAR.

YAMMER
ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE HERE TO SEE YUU'S BAND PLAY?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HEY, WHERE DID HIBIKI-CHAN GO, ANYWAY?
DUNNO. SHE SAID SHE WAS GONNA WATCH WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
The Blue Wells appearance scheduled for today

CANCELLED?

I'M REALLY, REALLY SORRY!!
SORRY!!

WELL, THE THING IS...
YOU CAN'T CANCEL THE SHOW RIGHT BEFORE IT WAS SUPPOSED TO START!
THE FANS ARE ALREADY HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

!!
SO I HAVE TO BE OUT OF HERE BY THE END OF THE MONTH.
I JUST FOUND OUT MY LEASE ON THIS BUILDING IS UP.
IT'S JUST TOO OUTRAGEOUS TO FORCE YOU TO DO THAT!
WHAT?! BUT THAT'S ONLY TWO MORE DAYS!!
YOU'RE KID-DING!!
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN HOSTING GIGS HERE FOR A LONG TIME?!
THEY APPAR-ENTLY GOT COMPLAINTS FROM THE RESTAURANT UPSTAIRS AND LOCAL RESI-DENTS, TOO.
SAID THIS CLUB IS TOO NOISY AND DISTURBS THE PUBLIC PEACE.
YEAH.
SIXTEEN YEARS, AND I NEVER GOT ANY COMPLAINTS LIKE THAT.

I'M GUESSING TOMOKO IKOMA HAD A HAND IN THIS.
SHE WANTED TO STOP YOU GUYS FROM PERFORMING.
IT'S AW-FUL.
...
BUT THAT'S--
IS THERE NO WAY...
...YOU CAN GIVE US A CHANCE TO PERFORM?
!!

SORRY ABOUT THIS.
I'M STILL GONNA DO WHAT I CAN TO LET YOU PERFORM JUST FOR TODAY, BUT—
IT FINALLY LOOKED LIKE THINGS WERE WORKING OUT FOR US—
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO?!
DAMN IT!!

BUT—
STILL—

NO— WE CAN'T PUT YOU THROUGH ANY MORE TROUBLE FOR OUR SAKES.
BUT WE APPRECIATE THE THOUGHT.

WHAT IS THIS?!
WHA—?
WHAT?!

W-WELL—
HM? WHAT'S WRONG?

FORTUNATELY, WE CAN STILL STREAM CONCERTS ONLINE.
WE'LL JUST KEEP DOING OUR BEST AT THAT FOR A WHILE.

OUR SNS AND VIDEO SITE ACCOUNTS...
...HAVE ALL BEEN FROZEN!!
RIGHT. RIGHT! I DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THAT!!
MUSIC
THANK YOU FOR BEING SO ATTENTIVE!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT RIGHT AWAY!
KLIK
カリ
チャ
YES...
THAT SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.

I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO UPLOAD IMAGES OF MY FRIENDS' PRODUCTS WITHOUT PERMISSION.
YOUR AMPS...
YOUR CLOTHES...
YOUR SHOES...
VIVO
EVERY LAST ONE...
VIDEOS AND ACCOUNTS THAT VIOLATE THE LAW MUST BE DELETED.
HEH HEH
IF YOU WANT TO BE IN A BAND THAT BADLY...
TMP
TMP
HAVING YOU SKULKING AROUND IRRITATES ME TO NO END.

...THEN YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY!!
AH HA HA HA HA!!

Blue Wolf
168 A PUSH!

THIS IS TOO AWFUL.
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WENT THIS FAR.
NOW THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.

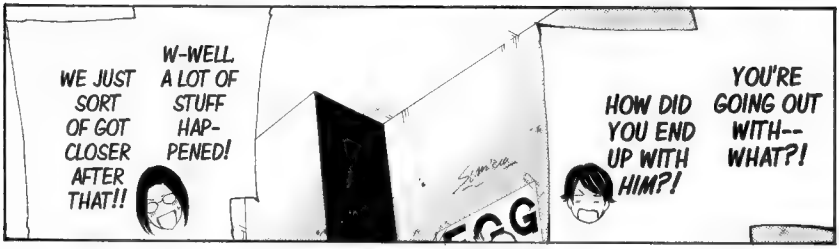
HUH?
I'M SORRY...
...YOU GUYS.
...

THAT--
I'M THE ONE WHO MADE THAT AGENCY'S PRESIDENT ANGRY.
THAT WAS MY FAULT! I'VE TOLD YOU THAT A HUNDRED TIMES!
BUT STILL!
THEN WE'LL JUST SAY IT WAS BOTH OF YOUR FAULTS.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, LET'S THINK ABOUT WHAT WE SHOULD DO NOW.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE CAN DO.
YEAH, BUT...
HEY, WAIT! STOP!
JUST WAIT HERE, GUYS! I'LL ASK FOR ALL OF US!!

WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT CANCELING THE CONCERT?!
DO YOU SEE ALL THE PEOPLE ALREADY HERE?!
STOP THIS!
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING ME!!
HIBIKI!
SORRY, YUU.
HE JUST WON'T ACCEPT THIS, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
UM...
WHO IS THIS?
OH—

I'M HIBIKI-SAN'S BOYFRIEND. MY NAME IS DOUBAYASHI.
H-HELLO.
HUH?
...
TWO YEARS AGO?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER? TWO YEARS AGO..
OH!!
OH.
WHO WAS HE AGAIN?
COME TO THINK OF IT..
WAIT.. HAVE WE MET THIS GUY SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

HE'S THE GUY WHO THREW A BOTTLE AT ME DURING OUR CONCERT AT THE SCHOOL FAIR!
IGNORE US!
YES! BULLS-EYE!!
ALL RIGHT, SECOND THROW--!
NICE AIM!
GET HIS HEAD THIS RE!


W-WELL, A LOT OF STUFF HAP-PENED!
WE JUST SORT OF GOT CLOSER AFTER THAT!!
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH--WHAT?!
HOW DID YOU END UP WITH HIM?!

...
BLUE WELLS IS CRAZY AWESOME, TOO!! IT'S EMO AS HELL!!
YOUR SCHOOL FAIR CONCERT WAS FREAKING GODLY!!
BUT I'M A HUGE FAN OF YOURS NOW!
L-LOOK, I'M, UH--
I MEAN..
I'M REALLY SORRY I DID THAT.

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
UH... A FORMER ENEMY BECOMING AN ALLY?
WAIT!! WAS YOUR CONCERT CANCELLED...
...BECAUSE OF THAT STUPID IKOMA HAG?!
ALL OF YOUR VIDEOS WERE DELETED, TOO!!
PRETTY MUCH.
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?
SO I WAS RIGHT!
IT'S ALL PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT ONLINE!
EVERY-ONE'S PRETTY SURE THAT'S WHY!!
HUH ?
I SWEAR, THAT WITCH WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT!
I ONLY HAVE 15 FOLLOWERS, BUT I'LL TWEET ABOUT THIS!
AND I'LL UPLOAD YOUR LIVE VIDEOS!
Y-YOU CAN'T! THEY WERE REMOVED DUE TO VIOLATIONS!
THAT DOESN'T MATTER!
HUH?

I JUST CHECKED WITH PRESIDENT AMAYA...
...AND OUR ACCOUNT WAS FROZEN FOR STUPID REASONS LIKE THE SHOES AND CLOTHES YOU GUYS WERE WEARING.
IF THAT'S HOW IT WORKS, THEN PEOPLE ARE UPLOADING ILLEGAL VIDEOS ALL OVER THE WORLD!!
DO THEY EXPECT PEOPLE TO APPEAR IN EVERY VIDEO NAKED?!
THAT WOULD BE A FAR WORSE CRIME, IF YOU ASK ME!
W-WELL, YEAH.
THAT'S TRUE, BUT--
ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT MY PER-MISSION!
DASH!!
HEY! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

HEY, EVERYONE!! SPREAD THIS AROUND ONLINE!
BLUE WELLS CAN'T PLAY ANY CONCERTS BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT OF ZETA MUSIC!
HUH? WHAT THE HECK?!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?! SO THAT RUMOR WAS TRUE!!
MURMUR
BECAUSE OF THE THING WHERE THEY CRASHED FUNBOOK'S CONCERT AT THE FESTIVAL IN KYUSHU, RIGHT?!
THERE WAS A PICTURE WHERE SHE LOOKED REALLY PISSED OFF!!
MURMUR
BUT IS THAT ANY REASON TO DO THAT TO A NEW BAND?! THAT'S TOTALLY IMMATURE!
UPLOAD THEIR LIVE VIDEOS, TOO!
IF YOU DON'T HAVE THEM, I'LL SEND THEM TO YOU!!
VMM VMM
HM?

666 @KILL666666666666 2 YEARS AGO
@YOU_HARUNA DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE
DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DI
DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DIE DI

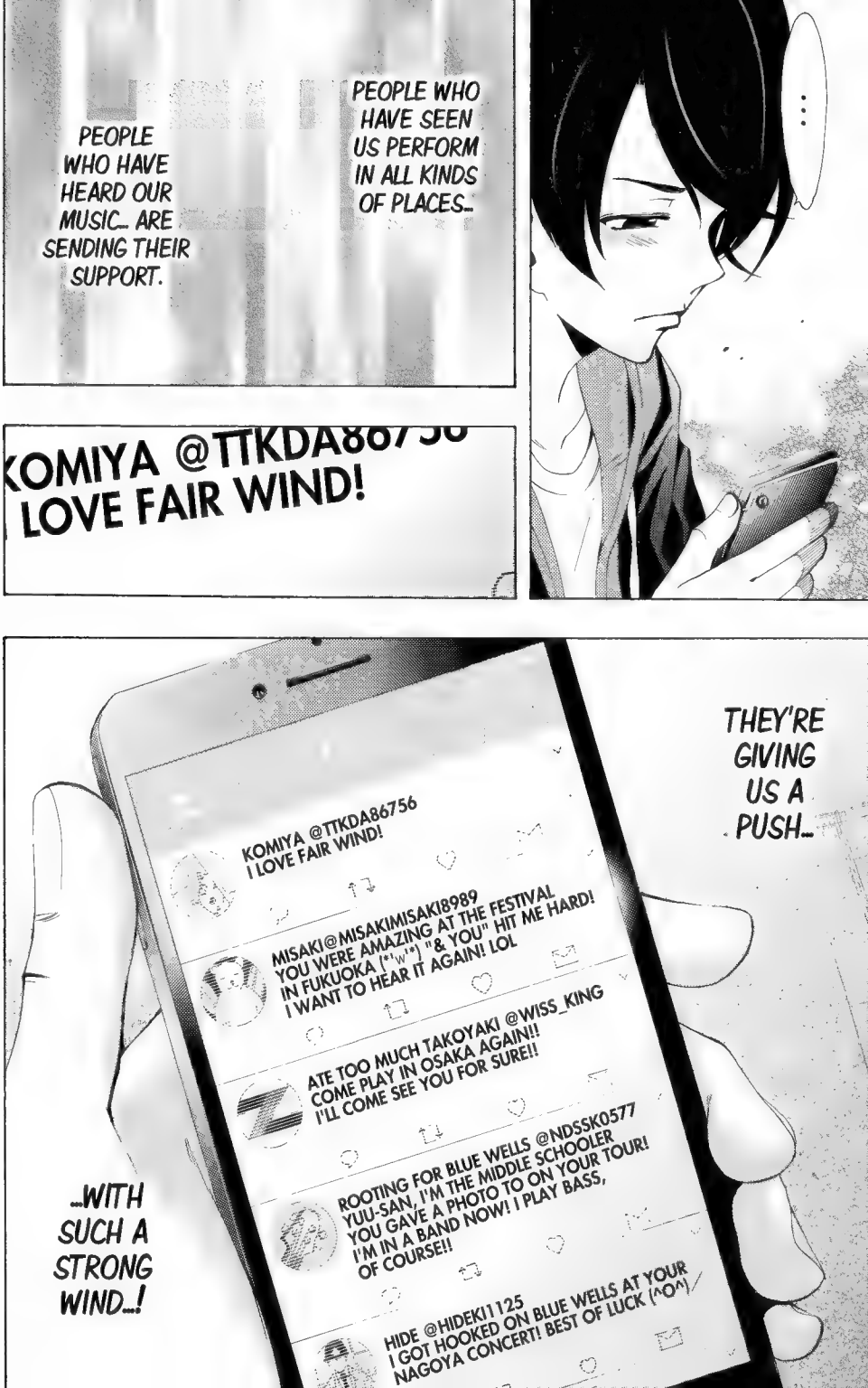
666 @KILL666666666666 NOW
I'M SORRY ABOUT THE HARSH
REPLY I SENT YOU BACK THEN! I KNOW
YOU'RE HAVING TROUBLE, BUT I'M
ROOTING FOR YOU! I'M A HUGE FAN
NOW!!

HIDE @HIDEKI1125
I GOT HOOKED ON BLUE WELLS AT YOUR NAGOYA CONCERT! BEST OF LUCK (^O^)／

ROOTING FOR BLUE WELLS @
YUU-SAN, I'M THE MIDDLE SCHOOLER YOU GAVE A PHOTO TO ON YOUR TOUR! I'M IN A BAND NOW! I PLAY BASS, OF COURSE!!

ATE TOO MUCH TAKOYAKI @
COME PLAY IN OSAKA AGAIN!!
I'LL COME SEE YOU FOR SURE!!

MISAKI@MISAKIMISAKI8989
YOU WERE AMAZING AT THE FESTIVAL IN FUKUOKA (*'Ω'*) "& YOU" HIT ME HARD! I WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN! LOL


PEOPLE WHO HAVE HEARD OUR MUSIC... ARE SENDING THEIR SUPPORT.
PEOPLE WHO HAVE SEEN US PERFORM IN ALL KINDS OF PLACES...
...
KOMIYA @TTKDA86756
I LOVE FAIR WIND!
KOMIYA @TTKDA86756
I LOVE FAIR WIND!
MISAKI@MISAKIMISAKI8989
YOU WERE AMAZING AT THE FESTIVAL IN FUKUOKA (*'ω'*) "& YOU" HIT ME HARD! I WANT TO HEAR IT AGAIN! LOL
ATE TOO MUCH TAKOYAKI @WISS_KING
COME PLAY IN OSAKA AGAIN!! I'LL COME SEE YOU FOR SURE!!
ROOTING FOR BLUE WELLS @NDSSK0577
YUU-SAN, I'M THE MIDDLE SCHOOLER YOU GAVE A PHOTO TO ON YOUR TOUR! I'M IN A BAND NOW! I PLAY BASS, OF COURSE!!
HIDE @HIDEKI1125
I GOT HOOKED ON BLUE WELLS AT YOUR NAGOYA CONCERT! BEST OF LUCK [^O^]/
THEY'RE GIVING US A PUSH...
...WITH SUCH A STRONG WIND...!

EX-CUSE ME..
...WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?
BUM!!
!!
BUM
!!
BUM
THAT BAND'S VIDEOS...
WASN'T EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM DELETED?
W-WELL...
WE SENT A REQUEST TO GET THEM DELETED...
HUH?!
WHA--
FOR REAL?!
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU NOW?

BLUE WELLS IS TRENDING NOW!!

#BLUEWELLS
12,362 TWEETS

#LIVEVIDEO

THIS IS AMAZING!!

BUT THERE WERE SO MANY OF THEM...

...THERE'S NO WAY TO HANDLE THEM ALL!

!!

#LIVEVIDEO
6,199 TWEETS

#ZETAMUSICPRESIDEN
4,178 TWEETS

OTTENOLDBITCH

SLAM!
PEOPLE WITH NO INFLUENCE CAN RIOT ON THE INTERNET ALL THEY WANT.
IT WON'T CHANGE THIS WORLD A BIT.
I WON'T LET IT!!
ALL OF YOU LITTLE CREEPS...
YOU THINK THAT JUST BY MESSING WITH SMART-PHONES IN YOUR SPARE TIME...
...YOU'RE SUDDENLY CHAMPIONS OF JUSTICE OR SOME-THING?

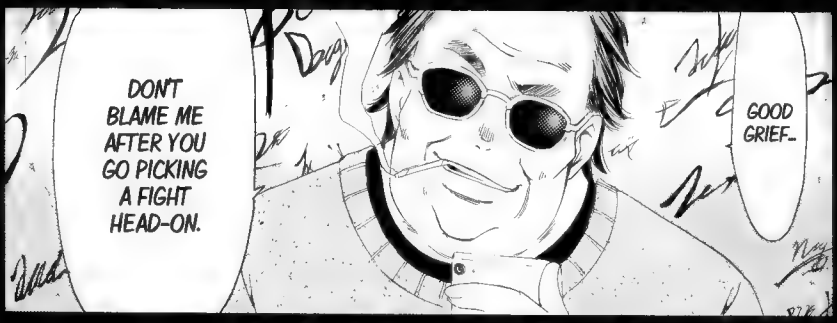
LET'S PUT ON A CONCERT!
I'M SURE THERE'S A PLACE WHERE WE CAN PLAY!

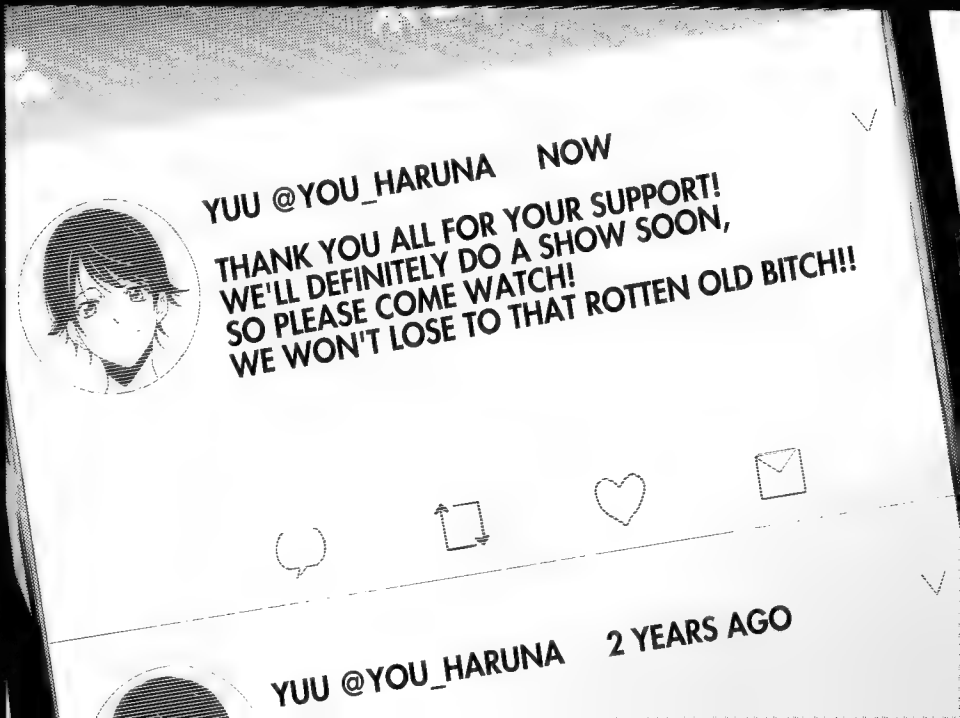
FUUKA...

HEY, YOU GUYS!
BLUE WELLS SAYS THEY'RE GONNA FIND A PLACE TO PLAY, NO MATTER WHAT!!

...
DOESN'T MR. YOU_HARUNA RESPOND IMMEDIATELY TO ALL TWEETS HE RECEIVES?
HUH?
THAT'S RIGHT! PLEASE HURRY AND REPLY TO THEM!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE OF US WHOSE ACCOUNT IS STILL ALIVE!!
FOR REAL?!
REALLY?!
THAT'S A PROMISE, OKAY?!
WOOOO
ALL RIGHT! THEN WE'LL KEEP UPLOADING THESE VIDEOS NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES THEY'RE DELETED!!

RIGHT!!


DON'T BLAME ME AFTER YOU GO PICKING A FIGHT HEAD-ON.
GOOD GRIEF..


YUU @YOU_HARUNA NOW
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
WE'LL DEFINITELY DO A SHOW SOON,
SO PLEASE COME WATCH!
WE WON'T LOSE TO THAT ROTTEN OLD BITCH!!
YUU @YOU_HARUNA 2 YEARS AGO

169 STARTING POINT.

5F
青木会
4F
有限会社 TWINKLING STAR
株式会社

MY NAME IS HINOKAMI, AND I'M A MANAGER AT THE MUSIC PRODUCTION COMPANY TWINKLING STAR...
AH... I HOPE I CAUGHT YOU AT A GOOD TIME.

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A LIVE CLUB, I CAN'T DO IT!
CLICK
HUH?! WAIT A--

WAIT, THAT'S NOT BLUE WELLS' PRODUCTION COMPANY, IS IT?
YES, IT IS! YOU'VE HEARD OF US?!

NEXT IS..
OKAY, SO..
I CALLED THIS ONE ALREADY.
AH-- I SEE. YES, I UNDER-STAND..
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE?! I DIDN'T EVEN SAY ANYTHING YET!
LISTEN!
WE HAVE A TON OF FANS WHO REALLY WANT TO SEE US PERFORM..
..SO EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONCE ON A WEEKDAY, WE REALLY WANT TO--
!!
ALL RIGHT, FINE!! I'LL NEVER ASK FOR YOUR HELP AGAIN!
BUT IF YOU COULD JUST--
NO.. WELL. YES.
I UNDER-STAND THAT, BUT--

DO THESE PEOPLE FEEL NOTHING WHEN THEY LISTEN TO BLUE WELLS' MUSIC?
HUFF
HUFF
DOES IT NOT GIVE THEM CHILLS?
SCREW ALL THESE PEOPLE! THEY'RE ALL LOSERS WITH TINY ASSHOLES AND SHRIMPY D*CKS ANYWAY!!
I BET THEY'RE WORTHLESS IN BED, TOO!
P-PRESIDENT... I'M ON THE PHONE HERE...
UM...
WHY DON'T WE TAKE A LITTLE BREAK?
I MADE SOME TEA.
...

LOOK, AOBA-CHAN! A STALK IN MY TEA IS FLOATING UPRIGHT!
OH! A STALK'S STAND-ING UP!
THAT MEANS SOMETHING GOOD WILL HAPPEN!
WOW!
TURNS OUT IT'S PRETTY HARD TO GET A TEA STALK TO STAND UP.
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU PLAY ALONG WITH THIS.
WE'VE OVERCOME PLENTY OF TIGHT SPOTS LIKE THIS BEFORE.
I'M SURE IT'LL ALL WORK OUT.
CREAK
WE'RE NOT GETTING ANYWHERE AT ALL.
NONE OF THESE PLACES WILL LET US PLAY.

FOR BETTER OR WORSE, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
OUR CONCERTS ALWAYS END UP HAPPENING UNDER THE WEIRDEST CIRCUM-STANCES.
YEAH.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
FOR ME, IT WAS DEFINITELY THE ONE AT THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL!
WHICH OF YOUR CONCERTS LEFT THE DEEPEST IMPRESSION ON EACH OF YOU?!
OH, BY THE WAY!
OH, RIGHT!
MINE WAS THE SCHOOL FAIR.
OH, FOR SURE! CAN'T FORGET THAT ONE.
THAT WAS JUST INTENSE.
MINE HAD TO BE THE BUDOKAN SHOW.

I WISH I HAD SEEN IT!!
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME WE ALL PLAYED "FAIR WIND" TOGETHER IN THAT GARAGE.
MINE WASN'T A CONCERT.

I'M YOUR MANAGER, AND I WASN'T INVITED!
I WASN'T INVITED!
...OUR FIRST CONCERT AFTER FORMING BLUE WELLS, OF COURSE!
MINE WAS...

HUH?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUU-KUN?
WHY'D YOU EVEN ASK, THEN?
THAT'S WHAT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO, RIGHT?!
WELL, STILL, THEY ALL HOLD A LOT OF MEMORIES FOR US. IT'S HARD TO CHOOSE ONE.

WHICH CONCERT LEFT THE BIGGEST IMPRESSION ON YOU?
ME?

...
UH...

...

UM...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO GIVE IT THAT MUCH THOUGHT.
WE WERE JUST MAKING SMALL TALK, MAN.

...

WOULD YOU ALL COME WITH ME FOR A BIT? YOU TOO, PRESIDENT AMAYA.
SORRY, BUT—
SKRUT
HONESTLY... I HATE THAT LOOK YOU HAVE ON YOUR FACE.
...

ENOSHIMA BEACH
RANKED AMONG THE
TOP 100 OCEAN SITES IN JAPAN

TMP
TMP

ISN'T THIS--
IT IS.

IT'S WHERE...
...I STOOD ON A STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THIS IS THE SITE OF THE CONCER THAT LEFT THE DEEPEST IMPRESSION ON YOU?
YEAH.
I REMEMBER NOW. FUUKA KINDA FORCED YOU INTO IT, DIDN'T SHE?
IN THE CORNER OF THAT LITTLE BEACH HOUSE... I REMEMBER.
AT THAT TIME, I WAS JUST...
...SO COMPLETELY OVERWHELMED BY FUUKA AKITSUKI'S VOICE AND THE HEDGEHOGS' PERFORMANCE...
...THAT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING AT ALL.

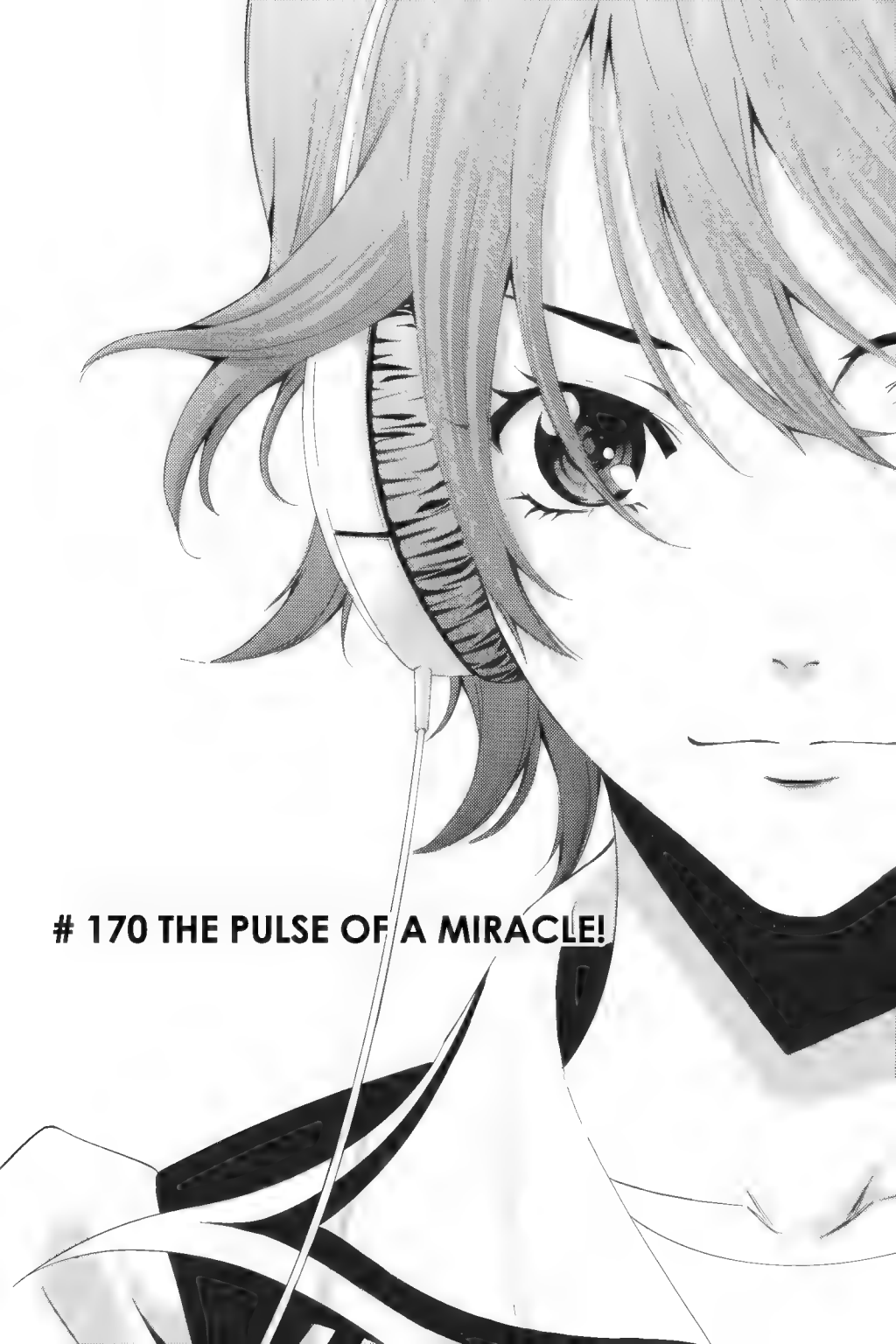
...
AND?
...MY STARTING POINT AS A MUSICIAN.
BUT THIS WAS...
...JUST TO TELL ME THAT STORY, DID YOU?
YOU DIDN'T BRING ME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE...
SINCE WE DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO PERFORM-
HUH?
ZZSSSHHHH
I WANTED TO ASK FOR YOUR OPINION.

WHY DON'T WE MAKE ONE HERE?

RIGHT HERE?!
WHAT?!
WHA--
YEAH!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST FOR ONE DAY...
...LET'S PACK THIS ENTIRE BEACH WITH FANS!!
TH-THE ENTIRE BEACH?!
DON'T BE STUPID, MAN!
DO YOU KNOW HOW MANY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE THAT WOULD TAKE?!

HUH?
I KNOW THAT.
YUU-KUN..
I JUST DON'T THINK WE'RE CAPABLE OF--
BUT..
THE HEDGE-HOGS TAUGHT ME..
..WHAT WE NEED TO DO.
YOU DON'T MEAN--
...

YEAH.
WE SHOULD THROW OUR OWN FESTIVAL!
IF WE'RE GOING TO FIZZLE OUT ANYWAY...
...LET'S GO OUT WITH ONE LAST, HUGE BANG!!



170 THE PULSE OF A MIRACLE!

DID YOU SAY...
...HOLD A FESTIVAL, RIGHT HERE?!
...YES.

WELL...
I MEAN...
IF I HAD TO SAY WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE...
THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME WITH US.
I WANTED YOU TO SEE IT AND DECIDE WHETHER IT'S POSSIBLE.
IF WE SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR A DAY WHEN IT'S AVAILABLE...
...I DON'T THINK RENTING THIS PLACE WILL BE A PROBLEM IN ITSELF, BUT...
I'M JUST TALKING ABOUT RENTING THIS AREA.
HUH?
SO WE CAN PLAY A CONCERT HERE?!
THAT'S AMAZ-ING!!
RE---
REALLY ?!

A FESTIVAL MEANS WE'LL NEED A STAGE, A REST AREA, TENTS...
ATTRACTIONS LIKE FOOD AND DRINK SHOPS, AND THEN THE RELATED LABOR COSTS.
AND HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK ALL OF THAT WILL COST?

W-WELL, UM--
I MEAN...

HUH?
DON'T BE STUPID.

IF THERE'S STILL ANY MONEY LEFT...
Blue wells
...FROM THE CDS WE SOLD ON OUR TOUR. COULDN'T WE USE THAT?

AND EVEN IF WE STILL HAD THE WHOLE AMOUNT, IT WOULDN'T BE NEARLY ENOUGH!
WE'VE ALREADY USED IT ALL TO REPAY THE COMPANY'S DEBT.
I'D SAY...
IF YOU'D SOLD FIVE OR SIX TIMES AS MANY CDS AS YOU DID, IT MIGHT'VE BEEN ENOUGH.
HUH? IT *REALLY* COSTS THAT MUCH?
ONE FESTI-VAL?
...
NO.
THERE IS A WAY.
HUH?
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PUT IT THAT WAY.
S-SORRY.
WHAT THE HECK? SO IT WAS JUST ANOTHER RANDOM IDEA FROM HARUNA?
...
THAT MANY?

PU—
PULL SOME TO-GETHER ?
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO—
IF WE DON'T HAVE MONEY..
...WE JUST NEED TO PULL SOME TOGETHER!!
THROUGH CROWD-FUNDING.
HUH?
WHAT'S THAT?
I'VE HEARD THE TERM A LOT RECENTLY.
PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ORGA-NIZE AN EVENT BUT DON'T HAVE THE MONEY USE IT TO REACH OUT TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE INTERNET FOR HELP IN FUNDING THE EVENT.

WHAT IF WE DO THAT...
...AND THEN WIND UP UNABLE TO HOLD THE FESTIVAL?
WHAT GOOD DOES IT DO TO THINK ABOUT THE WORST CASE SCENARIO?!
RIGHT NOW IS OUR ONLY CHANCE!! LET'S GET PEOPLE TO FUND US!!
WELL, SURE, BUT---
IF IT DOES FAIL, OUR COM-PANY...
...WILL SINK FOR SURE THIS TIME.
...

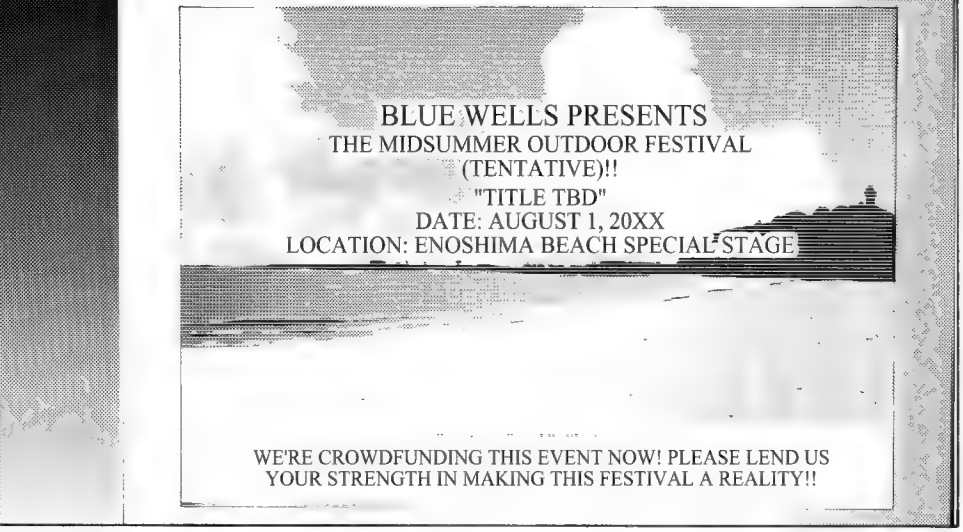
HIDE @HIDEKI1125
I GOT HOOKED ON BLUE WELLS AT YOU NAGOYA CONCERT BEST OF LUCK (^O
LUCKILY FOR US, BLUE WELLS IS INSANELY FAMOUS ON THE INTERNET, IF NOWHERE ELSE!
ROOTING F YUU-SAN, I SCHOOLER PHOTO TO I'M IN A B I PLAY BA
AND IT'S ALL SYMPATHETIC FANS WHO HATE WHAT'S HAPPENED TO US!!
UCH TAKOYAK IN OSAKA AGAI E YOU FOR SURE!!
MISAKI@MISAKIMISAKI898 YOU WERE AMAZING AT T TIVAL IN FUKUOKA (*'ω' U" HIT ME HARD! TO HEAR IT AGAIN!
SO WE SHOULD GET ALL OF THOSE PEOPLE ROOTING FOR US TO WORK WITH US AND MAKE THIS FESTIVAL HAPPEN!!
@TTKDA86756 IR WIND!!

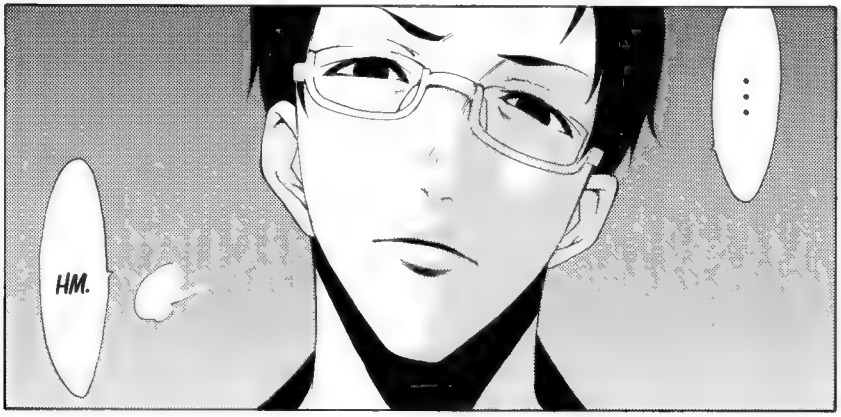
I TOLD YOU I HATE IT WHEN YOU MAKE THAT FACE.
LISTEN...

IF WE KEEP DOING NOTHING, WE'LL END UP BANKRUPT BY NEXT YEAR ANYWAY!
ALL RIGHT, FINE! LET'S HAVE A FESTIVAL HERE.

UH...
SHOULD WE REALLY USE THAT AS OUR CONCEPT?
ZZSSSHHHH
YOU'D BETTER MAKE YOURSELVES LOOK AS PATHETIC AS POSSIBLE TO APPEAL TO THE FANS!!
NOW THAT'S SETTLED, WE NEED TO SHOOT A VIDEO TO PROMOTE IT!

!!
WE REALLY CAN?!

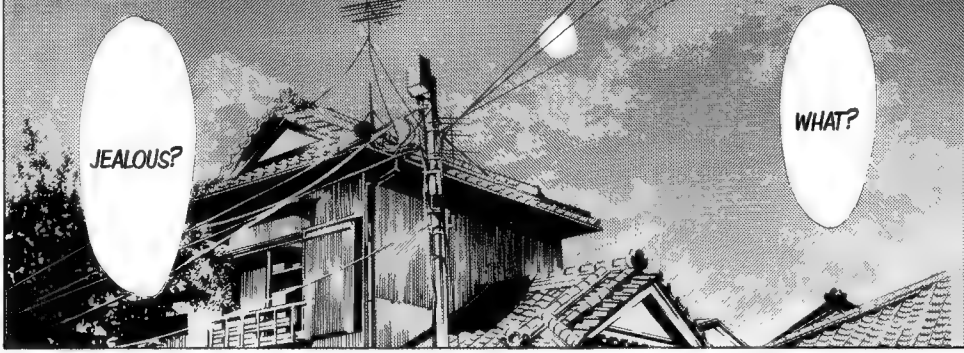

BLUE WELLS PRESENTS
THE MIDSUMMER OUTDOOR FESTIVAL
(TENTATIVE)!!
"TITLE TBD"
DATE: AUGUST 1, 20XX
LOCATION: ENOSHIMA BEACH SPECIAL STAGE
WE'RE CROWDFUNDING THIS EVENT NOW! PLEASE LEND US
YOUR STRENGTH IN MAKING THIS FESTIVAL A REALITY!!


...
HM.

...SHE HAS JUST THAT MUCH FAITH IN THEIR TALENT, RIGHT?
IT MUST MEAN...

THOSE KIDS HAVE SOME INTERESTING IDEAS.
I CAN'T BELIEVE PRESIDENT AMAYA APPROVED THIS.

N-NO, I'M NOT!!
WHAT'S THIS? ARE YOU JEALOUS?
I DON'T KNOW IF I AGREE WITH THIS AT ALL!

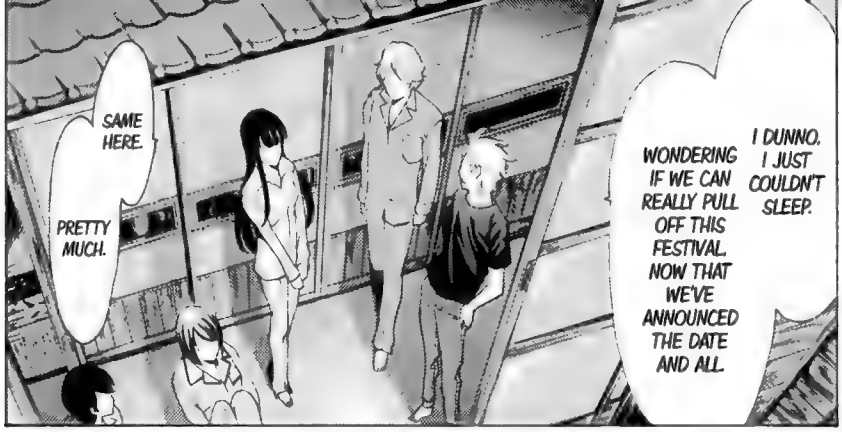

JEALOUS?
WHAT?

YOU JUST SAID YOU WANT TO HOLD A FESTIVAL IN A PLACE THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO YOU AND FUUKA-CHAN.
WELL, CAN YOU BLAME ME?

SNICKER
フス
IT'S MORE LIKE THAT WAS WHERE OUR BAND GOT ITS START.
THAT WASN'T...
...LIKE, A ROMANTIC MEMORY OR ANY-THING!!
N-NO, LOOK!

I WAS JUST TEAS-ING.
I KNOW THAT.
I THINK THAT'S THE BEST PLACE FOR US TO DO THIS, TOO.
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT?
...
THE DAY BEFORE EVERYONE CAME BACK FROM TRAINING...
...YOU WERE SO AWKWARD WHEN I LAID MY HEAD ON YOUR ARM.
HUH?
YEAH. I MEAN, I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LIKE ME.
!!
WHA...
WHAT ARE YOU—

I-IT WASN'T THAT BIG A DEAL.
Y-YEAH!! IT WAS NOTHING!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...?
RRRRUMMBLE
YAH!!
WHO CARES WHAT HAPPENED?
I SUP-POSE...
WELL...
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
OH?
WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?


I DUNNO. I JUST COULDN'T SLEEP.
WONDERING IF WE CAN REALLY PULL OFF THIS FESTIVAL NOW THAT WE'VE ANNOUNCED THE DATE AND ALL.
SAME HERE.
PRETTY MUCH.

HA HA.
YOU ALL WORRY TOO MUCH.
WHAT, SO YOU'RE NOT WORRIED?
NO. I WAS ACTUALLY TOO WORRIED TO SLEEP, TOO.
SO WHAT'S THE DIFFER-ENCE?

REALLY?
I'M NOT WORRIED.
I BELIEVE WE CAN PULL OFF THIS FESTIVAL.

...

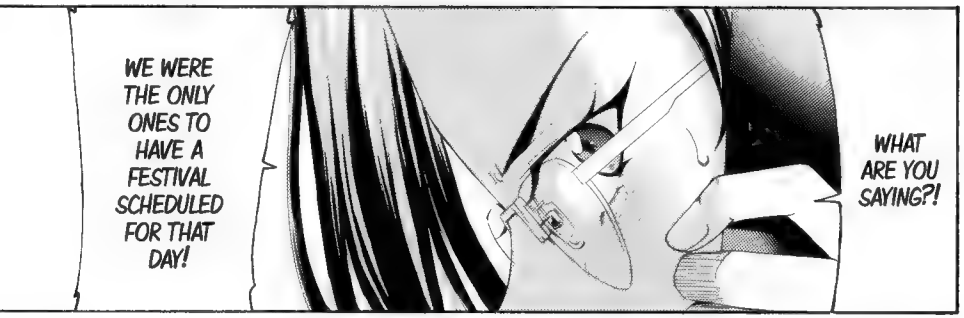
IT DOES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN A BIG RESPONSE ONLINE...
AND AOBA-CHAN SAID THE PRESIDENT USED HER CONNECTIONS TO GET US A COMPANY THAT'LL SET UP THE VENUE.
THE BIGGEST QUESTION IS WHETHER OR NOT PEOPLE WILL COME.
AND WE HAVEN'T FOUND ANY OTHER ARTISTS WHO'LL APPEAR IN IT.
IT'LL BE FINE.
I CAN HEAR THE PULSE OF A MIRACLE.
...
HUH?

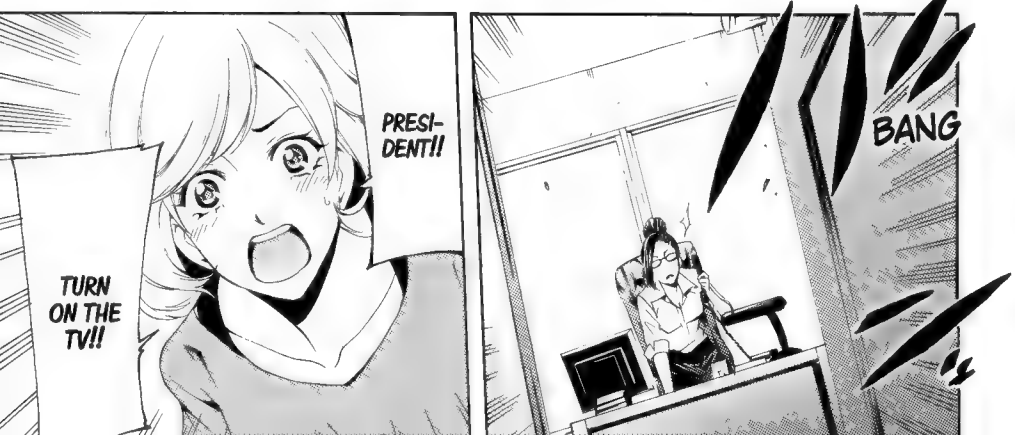
YOU KNOW, FUUKA...
YOU'VE STARTED TO SOUND KIND OF LIKE MIKASA LATELY.
AND WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, YUU-KUN?
WELL, IT'S THE TRUTH!
WHEN WE PUT IN OUR APPLICATION FOR THE SPACE...
AND THEY SAID, CONSIDERING THE PREP TIME, THERE WAS ONLY ONE DATE THAT WOULD WORK...
AUGUST 1...
...
OH.
I GET IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT...
THAT'S MY...

...AND FUUKA AKITSUKI'S BIRTHDAY.

SIGN: 4F TWINKLING STAR LTD.

WELL, THE THING IS... WE SUDDENLY GOT A REQUEST TO SET UP ANOTHER FESTIVAL...
...AND WE HAVE ORDERS FROM ABOVE TO PRIORITIZE THAT ONE.
SKRUT
HA!!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE CAN'T?!
IT'S A LITTLE LATE TO TELL ME THIS NOW! YOU GUYS ARE THE ONLY COMPANY I CAN COUNT ON TO SET UP THE VENUE!


WE WERE THE ONLY ONES TO HAVE A FESTIVAL SCHEDULED FOR THAT DAY!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!


PRESI-DENT!!
TURN ON THE TV!!
BANG

エンタメニュース
ENTERTAINMENT NEWS
ZETA MUSIC HAS MADE THE UNEXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT THEY'LL BE HOSTING A SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL!!
ALL OF JAPAN'S MOST PROMINENT ARTISTS WILL BE GATHERING IN YOKOHAMA FOR ONE MIRACULOUS EVENT!
AUGUST 1 WILL DEFINITELY BE A DAY TO LOOK FORWARD TO!

171 VISTORS.

WELL...
THAT DAY IS KIND OF...
WE'RE...
UM...
...APPEARING AT ZETA MUSIC'S FESTIVAL...
OH.
OKAY, THEN.
SORRY TO INVITE YOU OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT.
NOT AT ALL!!
I'M REALLY HAPPY YOU DID. I'M THE ONE WHO'S REALLY SORRY!
HUH? FOR WHAT?

WELL, IT'S ALL OVER THE INTERNET, ISN'T IT?
THAT YOUR FESTIVAL IS UP AGAINST ZETA MUSIC'S.
ZETA MUSIC IS BIG ENOUGH AS IT IS, AND NOW EVEN I'M YOUR ENEMY BECAUSE OF IT.

ENEMY? COME ON!
I DON'T THINK THAT AT ALL.
Y-YOU DON'T?
NAH. YOU'RE JUST DOING YOUR JOB.
YOU COULDN'T HELP IT, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!

STILL...
YOU'RE A REALLY IMPORTANT FRIEND TO ME.
I WAS HOPING TO BE OF AT LEAST SOME HELP TO YOU.
...
TAMA-CHAN...

SIGN: 4F TWINKLING STAR LTD.

YOU'RE KIDDING ME!! WHAT'S YOUR FRIENDSHIP EVEN FOR, THEN?!
WELL, SHE HAS HER REASONS.
AND THEIR PRIOR PLAN WAS ZETA MUSIC'S FESTIVAL?

YOU SAID THE COMPANY PRESIDENT AMAYA KNOWS FELL THROUGH--
MORE IMPORTANTLY, DID YOU FIND A COMPANY THAT'LL SET UP THE VENUE FOR US?
SEE FOR YOUR-SELF.
...
UM.
I BROUGHT TEA.
THE WHOLE WORLD IS TOO DAMN BUSY.
EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM SAYS THEY'RE BUSY.
FORGET IT. TEA STALKS WON'T HELP NOW.
GLOOOOOOM
...

HUH?
THE IDEA OF OUR COMPANY HOLDING ITS OWN FESTIVAL...
...MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PIPE DREAM FROM THE START...

...

WE'RE ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PEAK FESTIVAL AND EVENT SEASON.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW IF WE CAN PAY ARTISTS WHO APPEAR.
AND WE WERE ALREADY A TARGET OF ONE OF THE BIGGEST MUSIC AGENCIES AROUND.

WHO WOULD WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH A COMPANY LIKE US?
THEY'D HAVE NOTHING TO GAIN FROM IT.

BUT--!!
NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE SUPPORT AND FUND US...
...WE DON'T HAVE THE POWER TO MAKE OPTIMAL USE OF IT.
...AND A LOTS PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO HELP US THROUGH CROWD-FUNDING.
WE HAVE A TON OF SUPPORT ONLINE...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!

...BUT AFTER CUTTING TIES WITH MY BIG-LEAGUE COMPANY, I CAN'T EVEN BOOK ONE SHOW FOR MY ARTISTS.
THEY USED TO CALL ME A GENIUS PRODUCER...
IT'S PATHETIC, ISN'T IT?

KA-CHAK!
カチャ
PRESI-DENT --!!
...
...UTTERLY PATHETIC.
IT REALLY IS...

I'M BAAAACK!!
...
...
HUH?
PLEASE TRY TO READ THE MOOD.
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE YOU'RE AT A FUNERAL.
WHAT'S GOING ON?

...
WELL, ACTU-ALLY...
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU, FUUKA?
YOU'RE REALLY KEYED UP.
SHOVE
MOODS AREN'T SOMETHING YOU READ! THEY'RE SOMETHING YOU MAKE!!
RIGHT, YUU-KUN?!
YEP!!
SEN-PAI?
I JUST CAME BACK FROM THE CONVENIENCE STORE, AND I FOUND OUR SENPAI WANDERING AROUND DOWN-STAIRS. SO I BROUGHT THEM IN.
OH.
TMP
TMP
COME ON, GET IN HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

I-IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
...HI. THERE.

THEY LOOKED LIKE THEY WEREN'T SURE IF THEY SHOULD COME IN. SO I DRAGGED THEM UP HERE.
SEEMS THEY WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOMETHING, PRESIDENT.

SU-ZUYA-KUN...
AND MI-KUMA-KUN?
WHY ARE YOU GUYS--

UH...
YEAH.
SO...
TALK TO ME?
HUH?
OH-- YEAH, IT WAS A GREAT SHOW.
IT MADE US REALLY HAPPY.
THANKS FOR COMING TO KANARIA'S CONCERT THE OTHER DAY.
WE CAME TO TOKYO FOR WORK, AND WE'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALKING EVERY-WHERE.
WE'RE BOTH BUSINESS-MEN NOW.
SO... WHAT WE REALLY WANTED TO SAY IS THIS.
SHE'S REALLY A GOOD PERSON!
SEE? I TOLD YOU SHE WAS THERE.
S-SURE.
IS THAT RIGHT?
...
...TO GET INVOLVED WITH A FESTIVAL HOSTED BY THIS COMPANY.
THEY'RE SAYING THERE'S NO VENUE SET-UP COMPANY IN JAPAN STUPID ENOUGH...

IN THAT CASE...
...WOULD YOU LET US DO THE JOB?!

WH-WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
YOU CAN DO THAT?!
...
HUH?

THE TRUTH IS, EVEN AFTER WE RAN FROM THIS COMPANY... WE STILL WANTED TO STAY INVOLVED WITH MUSIC.
SO I GOT A JOB AT A COMPANY THAT SETS UP TEMPORARY FESTIVAL AND EVENT FACILITIES.
WE USE IT TO SET UP MOST OF KANARIA'S LIVE VENUES, TOO.

OH!!
COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT WAS ON THE BUSINESS CARDS YOU GAVE US!!
THAT SUZUYA-SAN WORKS FOR AN EVENT LOGISTICS COMPANY, AND MIKUMA-SAN...

I WORK FOR A BUS COMPANY.
WE RUN SHUTTLE BUSES TO FESTIVALS FROM LOCAL AIRPORTS AND TRAIN STATIONS.

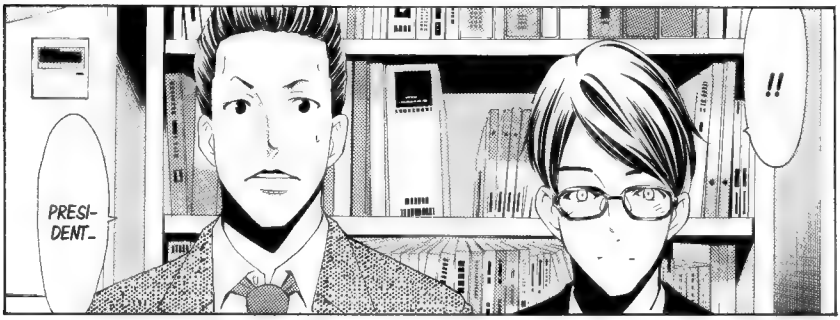
SO PLEASE LET US HELP YOU!
WE MAY NOT LOOK IT, BUT AFTER TEN YEARS, I'M SURE WE HAVE SOME INFLUENCE!
WE'LL CONVINCE OUR BOSSES, WHATEVER IT TAKES!!
LET'S HAVE THEM HELP, PRESIDENT!
YOU HEARD WHAT THEY SAID!
BUT--
WHAT WOULD YOU GUYS GAIN FROM THIS THIS?
GAINS AND LOSSES DON'T MATTER.
THIS ISN'T ABOUT THAT.
EVER SINCE WE RAN AWAY FROM THIS COMPANY-
..WE'VE BEEN HOPING A DAY LIKE THIS WOULD COME.
CLENCH

PLEASE LET US REPAY OUR DEBT TO YOU!
PLEASE!!

!!
AN APOLOGY LIKE THAT ISN'T ENOUGH TO MAKE ME FORGIVE WHAT YOU DID.
HUH?!

WAAAH!!
PRESI-DEE-EENT!!

I FORMALLY REQUEST THAT YOU APPEAR IN OUR FESTIVAL.
LEND US YOUR STRENGTH AS THE POPULAR BAND KANARIA.


!!
PRESI-DENT-

OF COURSE WE WILL.
AND WE WON'T FAIL THIS TIME!

HONESTLY...
I COULDN'T BE MORE GRATE-FUL...
...THAT YOU TWO ARE AROUND.

ALL RIGHT!
THAT'S ONE PARTICIPAT-ING ACT CONFIRMED!!
PRESI-DEEEENT! I'LL FOLLOW YOU FOREVER!!
YAMMER
HEY, AOBA-CHAN, GET OFF ME.
WE SHOULD DRAW A FAIRLY BIG CROWD WITH KANARIA ON THE ROSTER, RIGHT?!
YAMMER
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FAIRLY"?

172 CHALLENGE LETTER!

BAM
BAM
EVERY-ONE!!
YOU NEED TO FOCUS!
YOU'RE GONNA SCARE PEOPLE.
CRUNCH CRUNCH
WH-WHERE'D THAT COME FROM?

SURE, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SET UP FACILITIES FOR THE FESTIVAL THANKS TO KANARIA...
...AND THEY'RE EVEN GOING TO APPEAR IN IT FOR US.
WELL, WHAT MORE DO YOU WANT? WE'RE DOING THE BEST WE CAN.
CRUNCH CRUNCH CRUNCH
THERE'S STILL TIME. WE JUST HAVE TO KEEP LOOKING.
BUT!
WE STILL DON'T HAVE NEARLY ENOUGH ARTISTS!
8:50 Kanaria
12:00 Blue Wells
JUST LOOK AT THIS! I'VE NEVER SEEN A TIMETABLE LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT KIND OF RELAXED APPROACH!
ARE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE EATING RICE CRACKERS FOREVER, AOI-SAN?!
THE FESTIVAL'S IN JUST THREE MONTHS!!
S-SORRY.
WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO, THEN?
...
THIS IS OUR LAST RESORT...

WE HAVE TO SWALLOW OUR PRIDE AND ASK ON THE INTERNET!
WE'LL REACH OUT TO PEOPLE THROUGH A LIVESTREAM...
...AND ASK ANY WILLING ARTISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR FESTIVAL!

YOU'LL LOOK A LOT MORE PATHETIC IF NO ONE ELSE WILL PLAY!!
JUST TRY TO IMAGINE A MUSIC FESTIVAL WITH ONLY TWO BANDS!
THAT'S A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH!!
WELL, YEAH, BUT--

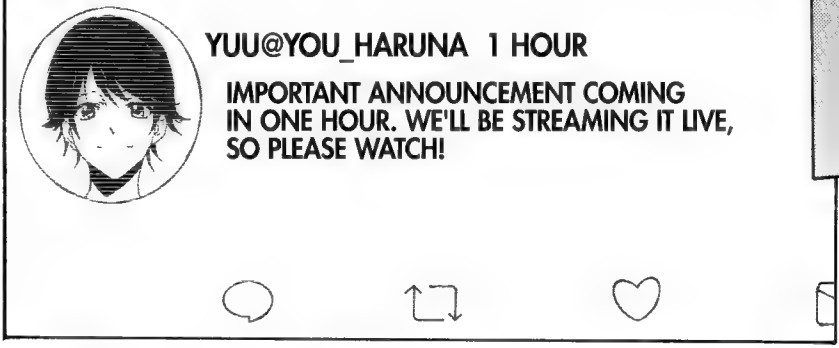
HUH?
ARE YOU NUTS? THAT'D MAKE US LOOK PATHETIC!

...
SHE'S RIGHT.

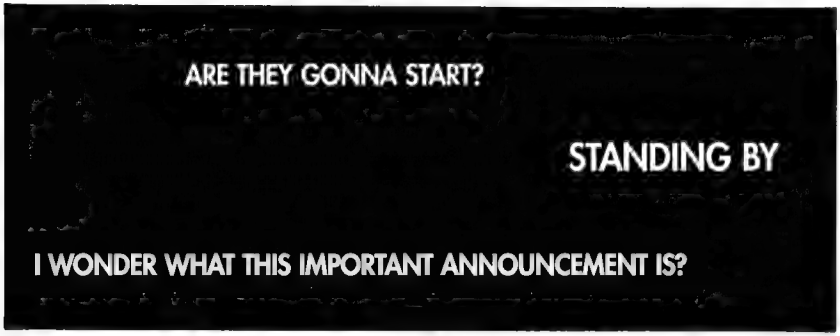
I ENVY YOUR MENTAL FORTI-TUDE.
WHAT? I WOULDN'T BE EMBAR-RASSED AT ALL.
AOBA-CHAN IS EXACTLY RIGHT.
WE CAN'T BE EMBARRASSED. WE HAVE TO DO WHAT WE HAVE TO DO.

I'LL GET EVERYTHING READY, OKAY?
1 10
CLAP
RIGHT!!

...
YES, YOU! ALL THE REST OF OUR ACCOUNTS HAVE BEEN FROZEN!!
HUH? ME?
SAY, "WE'LL BE MAKING AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCE-MENT IN ONE HOUR."
I'LL WRITE A SCRIPT. HARUNA-SAN, YOU POST A TWEET.


YUU@YOU_HARUNA 1 HOUR
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT COMING IN ONE HOUR. WE'LL BE STREAMING IT LIVE, SO PLEASE WATCH!

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE PLANNING TO DO NOW.
WELL...


ARE THEY GONNA START?
STANDING BY
I WONDER WHAT THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT IS?

OH, IS IT RECORDING ALREADY?
FLASH

LOLOLOL
OH!!
SORRY!!
LOL
YES, IT'S RECORDING!! GET IN YOUR POSITION AND STOP ROAMING AROUND!
LOLOLOL
AOI-CHAN'S SO CUTE
LOL SHE'S SO CLUMSY
LOL
IT'S STARTING

ARE YOU ALL WATCH-ING?!
UH, SO-- HI, GUYS! WE'RE BLUE WELLS!

WE ANNOUNCED THAT WE'D BE PUTTING ON A FESTIVAL IN AUGUST...
...BUT WE RAN INTO A LITTLE... ACTUALLY, A BIG PROBLEM.
OH- NOTH-ING.
WHAT ARE YOU WATCHING, MOGAMI-SAN?

THE THING IS, WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET ANY ARTISTS EXCEPT KANARIA FROM NAGOYA TO JOIN THE LINEUP.
IF WE CAN'T GET SOME MORE, WE'LL BE THE ONLY TWO BANDS PLAYING AT THIS FESTIVAL.

AND SO!! WE KNOW IT'S PRETTY SAD TO ASK THIS WAY...
WHAT?! KANARIA'S GONNA BE THERE?!
...
FOR REAL?!
...BUT IF THERE ARE ANY ARTISTS WATCHING THIS STREAM WHO'D LIKE TO BE IN OUR FESTIVAL...

...WOULD YOU PLEASE JOIN OUR LINEUP?
CAN YOU EVEN MANAGE A FESTIVAL?!
LOL FOR REAL?
WHAAAAAAAAA
HELP US MAKE THIS AN AWESOME EVENT!
LOL THIS IS HILARIOUS
TWO BANDS? SERIOUSLY?!
IS THAT GONNA BE ENOUGH?
I KNOW KANARIA!!!

PLEASE HELP US OUT IF YOU CAN!!
PLEASE DO.
PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US.
UH... YEAH, PLEASE.
...
NOW THAT'S JUST PITIFUL.
THIS ISN'T GOING TO GET ANY ARTISTS TO JOIN YOUR FESTIVAL.
FEELING REBELLIOUS?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARUNA-SAN?!
ASK THEM FOR HELP! DON'T JUST STAND THERE!!
WHAT'S WRONG, YUU-KUN?
HELLOOOOO!
THEIR VOICEOVER CHICK SOUNDS SO MEAN LOL
UM...

WHERE IS THIS COMING FROM NOW?!
JUST DO IT LIKE WE PLANNED!!

THIS REALLY ISN'T RIGHT... IS IT?
HUH ?!

LOLOL
WHAT'S GOING ON, YUU-KUN?
IS THIS SCRIPTED?
DO IT LIKE YOU PLANNED, MAN!
S-SORRY...
NOW THEY'RE FIGHTING LOL
GUYS, DON'T ARGUE LOL
HEY! DON'T YELL!!
LOLOL
DON'T START THIS, HARUNA!
WE'RE EMBAR-RASSED TOO, BUT THAT'S NOT STOPPING US!!
AOI-CHAN'S SO CUTE

...OR BECAUSE I WANTED TO PERFORM WITH ARTISTS WHO ARE OUR FRIENDS.
...WASN'T BECAUSE I JUST WANTED TO DRAW CROWDS...
BUT THE REASON I WANTED TO DO THIS FESTIVAL...

AND SOME HAVE SAID THEY'LL TAKE PART BECAUSE THEY OWE OUR COMPANY A DEBT.
OF COURSE... SOME PEOPLE HAVE SAID THEY WANT TO HELP US OUT AS FRIENDS.

ARE YOU DUMB?! CAN YOU NOT READ THE MOOD IN HERE?!
HA-RUNA-SAN!!
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE AFTER AT ALL!
..BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT IT'S ABOUT.
AND WE APPRE-CIATE THAT...

CRUSH THAT "MOOD."
THAT'S IT.
THAT FACE.
THERE IT IS...

!!

WE JUST FINISHED AN AMAZING SONG.
I'M CONFIDENT WE COULD TAKE ON ANYONE!
THAT'S WHY I WANT LOTS OF PEOPLE THERE WATCHING SO WE CAN PROVE...

I JUST WANT...
...TO FIGHT!!

...THAT NO BAND RESONATES IN YOUR HEART...
...RIGHT HERE, MORE THAN BLUE WELLS!!

HUH ?!
NO, I AGREE WITH HIM.
SAME HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
APOLOGIZE AND ASK FOR THEIR HELP AGAIN!
LOL
ARE THEY REALLY SAYING THIS?
LOL
LOLOL
WE'RE LOOKING FOR CHAL-LENGERS.
WE'RE THE BEST BAND THERE IS! SO BRING IT ON!!
LOLOL
HE SAID IT!!!!!!
THIS IS TOO FUNNY LO
THEY'RE SUCH IDIOTS
IF ANYONE WANTS TO GIVE IT A SHOT, JUST REPLY TO YUU-KUN!
AOI-CHAN IS SO CUTE
LOLOL
NICE! LET'S SEE MORE OF THIS!

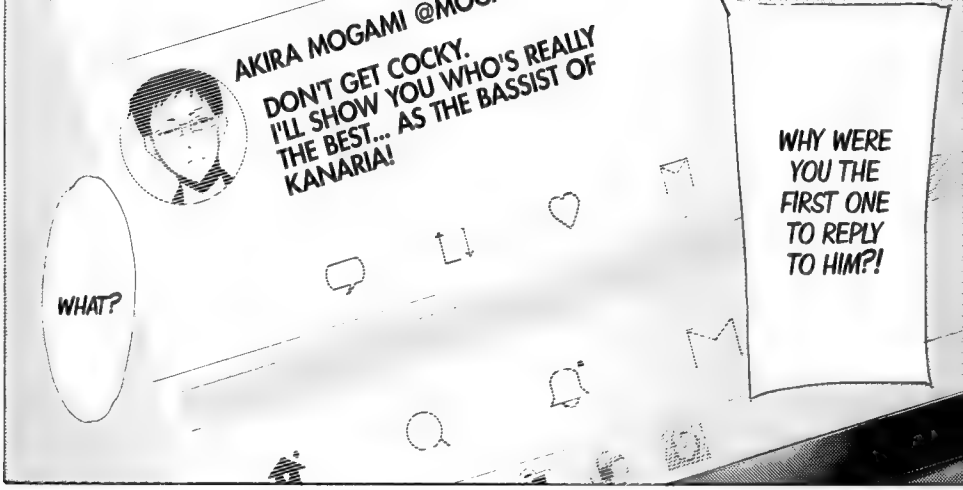
THEY ACTUALLY CALLED THEMSELVES THE BEST IN THE WORLD!
NO ONE'S GONNA BE IN THAT FESTIVAL!
WHAT ARE THESE GUYS EVEN SAYING?
MA-KUN LOOKS SO COOL!
THOSE LITTLE BRATS.

THAT'S RIGHT...
HUH?
WE HAVEN'T BEEN INVITED TO ZETA MUSIC'S FESTIVAL. RIGHT?
MO-GAMI-SAN...

...YOU'D BETTER GROW UP.
YUUGA. IF YOU WANT TO STAY IN THE MUSIC BUSI-NESS...

THESE GUYS HUMILIATED US BIGTIME AT THE HEDGEHOGS' FESTIVAL.
THEN CAN WE BE IN THIS ONE?

OKAY. THEN...
...


AKIRA MOGAMI @MOG
DON'T GET COCKY. I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S REALLY THE BEST... AS THE BASSIST OF KANARIA!
WHAT?
WHY WERE YOU THE FIRST ONE TO REPLY TO HIM?!

...AFTER BEATING OUT KANARIA WITH ME NOT IN IT!
I CAN'T STAND TO SEE THESE GUYS...

AH... HEY!!
FORGET HIM, YUUGA! JUST SEND A REPLY ALREADY.
WHY NOT?! WE WANT TO BE IN A FESTIVAL WITH KANARIA, TOO!
SHUT UP!! ANYWAY, YOU GUYS DON'T GET TO DO THIS!
WAIT, YOU'RE BEING MORE IMMATURE THAN ANY-ONE!

WHO THE HELL CARES?! THEY'RE PICKING A FIGHT WITH US!!
DAMN RIGHT I'M GONNA FIGHT BACK!
ARE YOU SERIOUS, ICHIGO?!
THERE'S NO WAY THE AGENCY WILL ALLOW THAT.
SOUNDS LIKE FUN...
I'LL COME FIGHT YA!
WHA --!
WHAT ?!
YOU'RE KID-DING ME!
AKIRA MOGAMI, LE BARD, COLT PYTHON...
AND EVEN AYA-NAMI-SAN!
?!
WHOA!!

SHERRY HORNET @SHERRYHORNET NOW
@YOU_HARUNA LOOK FORWARD TO IT! I'LL GIVE YOU A WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCE!
AND EVEN SHELLEY HORNET!!
WHA...
THIS IS IT.
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED OUR FESTIVAL TO BE!

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD DO THIS, FUUKA.
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO TALK TO AKAGI?
WHY ARE YOU BEING SUCH A BABY?
DO WE REALLY HAVE TO GO TO THEIR CONCERT FOR THAT, THOUGH?
CAN'T WE WAIT UNTIL IT'S OVER?
WE MIGHT LEARN SOME THINGS FROM LE BARD'S PERFOR-MANCE.
ESPECIALLY YOU. YOU STAND TOO STILL WHEN YOU'RE PLAYING THE BASS, SO YOU SHOULD STUDY THEM.
HIS BAND IS GOING TO BE IN OUR FESTIVAL, SO WE HAVE TO THANK HIM!
...
HUH? BUT C'MON-- ASKING ME TO IMITATE HIM...
OH, BE QUIET!! WE'RE GOING, AND THAT'S THAT!!
Fuuka

Fuuka

173 EACH OF THEIR PLANS.

HUH?
Le-Bard
TO THANK US?
YEAH! THANKS FOR AGREEING TO APPEAR IN OUR FESTIVAL!
...
SAVE THAT KIND OF TALK FOR THE AFTER-PARTY.
HEY, CUT IT OUT, YUUGA.
YOU WERE IN THE CROWD, WEREN'T YOU?
YOU SEE?

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO THANK ME FOR.
IT'S NOT AS IF WE'RE DOING THIS FOR YOU.
HUH?
THEN WHY--
SKRUT
HEY-- WAIT!
I'M TIRED.
I'M GOING HOME.
...
HEY, YUUGA. WE HAVE AN AFTER-PARTY, REMEMBER?
AND SOME BIGSHOTS ARE GONNA BE THERE, SO WE NEED TO GO.
TELL THEM I'M NOT FEELING WELL.

U-UM-- WE'LL JUST BE GOING, THEN.
ALL RIGHT. THANKS FOR COMING, MAN.
LET'S MAKE THE FESTIVAL AWESOME.
WHAT'S UP WITH HIM?
I KNOW. HE USUALLY NEVER MISSES THESE THINGS.
WE'RE REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT, TOO.
WE'VE BEEN FANS OF KANARIA FOREVER. SO WE'RE PSYCHED TO APPEAR IN IT WITH THEM.
OH. YEAH.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT.
WELL, LET'S GO, FUUKA.
HUH?
...

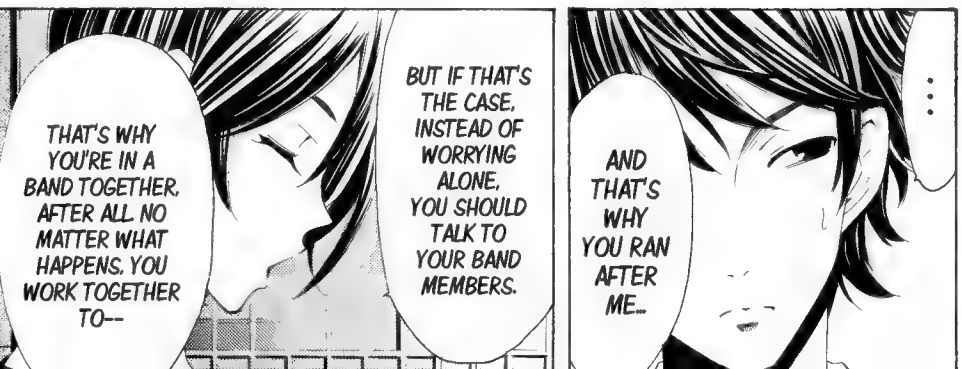
HUH?!
COME ON, FUUKA!
I FORGOT! I WANTED TO TALK TO YUUGA-KUN ABOUT SOMETHING!
SORRY, BUT WHY DON'T YOU GO ON AHEAD?
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
SERI-OUSLY, COME ON!!
WHAT'S THIS?
OH-HO?
...
SINCE WHEN ARE THEY THAT CLOSE?
SHE CALLED HIM "YUUGA-KUN"...

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU?
STOP FOLLOW-ING ME.
I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR LENDING ME YOUR EFFECTOR.
I NEVER GOT A CHANCE TO SAY THAT TO YOU, EITHER.
EFFECTOR, THE JAPANESE TERM FOR GUITAR SOUND EFFECTS PEDALS.
HUH?
THE EFFECTOR! YOU LOANED IT TO ME ON OUR TOUR. REMEMBER?!
OH.
THAT WAS NO BIG DEAL.
BY THE WAY, WHY AREN'T YOU GOING TO YOUR AFTER-PARTY?
AFTER A GREAT SHOW LIKE THAT, YOU GUYS SHOULD ALL HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

LOOK...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FLATTER ME LIKE THAT.
HUH?
FLATTER YOU?
YOU SAW THE SHOW, DIDN'T YOU?
THE PLACE HAD A CAPACITY OF 1,000, BUT IT WAS PRACTICALLY EMPTY.
WE DEBUTED WITH A LOT OF FANFARE AFTER WINNING AT LIGHTNING REBELLION...
...THEN DID STUFF WITH ALL KINDS OF DRAMA AND ANIME SERIES, BUT THEN...

THAT'S WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU?
HUH?
MORE AND MORE BANDS LIKE US KEPT POPPING UP...
...AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT, PEOPLE WERE BORED OF US, AND WE JUST GOT BURIED.
...
NOW WE'RE JUST A SECOND-RATE BAND THAT CAN'T EVEN DRAW 1,000 FANS.

I FIGURED YOU JUST COULDN'T BRING YOURSELF TO SAY IT IN FRONT OF YUU-KUN.
YOU WERE ABOUT TO SAY SOMETHING EARLIER, WEREN'T YOU?


THAT'S WHY YOU'RE IN A BAND TOGETHER. AFTER ALL, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, YOU WORK TOGETHER TO--
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, INSTEAD OF WORRYING ALONE, YOU SHOULD TALK TO YOUR BAND MEMBERS.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU RAN AFTER ME...
...

I GOT AN OFFER TO DEBUT AS A SOLO ARTIST.
THEY SAID I COULD TRY BEING AN ACTOR OR TV PERSONALITY.
HUH?
I MEAN, I LOOK GOOD, AND I HAVE A LOT OF VISUAL APPEAL.
SO I GET WHY THE AGENCY WANTS ME TO DO IT.
UH-- I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU CAN SAY THAT ABOUT YOURSELF.

I'LL DO WHATEVER WILL BRING IN MONEY.
THAT'S WHY I CHANGED BAND MEMBERS SO MUCH THAT I'VE FORGOTTEN SOME OF THEM.
MOST OF THEM GET SICK OF ME ANYWAY, THOUGH.
THEY SAY THEY CAN'T KEEP WORKING WITH ME.
SO AS LONG AS YOU'RE MAKING MONEY, YOU DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS?!
IT'S LIKE YOU DON'T HAVE A MORAL STANDARD.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY LOVE FOR MUSIC AT ALL?
IF YOU WANT YOUR BAND TO BE WORK, DO IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE! I CAN'T KEEP THIS UP!!
...
SO... ARE YOU GOING TO GO SOLO?
...
THE PRESIDENT TOLD ME HE WANTED TO HAMMER OUT THE DETAILS AT TODAY'S AFTER-PARTY.

I CAN'T LET THOSE GUYS HEAR US TALKING ABOUT THAT.
JUST MAKES YOU WANNA TELL HIM TO PISS OFF, YOU KNOW?
..WHO'VE EVER BEEN HAPPY TO JUST SHUT UP AND FOLLOW ME.
THOSE TWO ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE..
ONCE SOMEONE'S INVOLVED WITH ME, I WON'T LET THEIR EFFORTS BE FOR NOTHING.
I CAN'T BETRAY THEM.

AND FOR THAT, I'LL USE YOUR FESTIVAL, OR WHATEVER ELSE IS AVAILABLE TO ME.
ZETA MUSIC SEEMS TO HAVE EARNED A REPUTATION ONLINE FOR BEING "EVIL"...
...SO IF WE EARN ENOUGH ATTENTION AT YOUR FESTIVAL, MAYBE IT'LL HELP US TURN THINGS AROUND.

THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU...
...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR.
WE'RE JUST PLANNING TO USE YOU AS A STEPPING STONE.

YUUGA-KUN...

I SEE.

...

WELL, THEN...
I SHOULD APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE.

BECAUSE WE MIGHT...
...JUST CRUSH ALL THOSE AMBITIONS OF YOURS.
...

HEH.

NOW THAT'S INTER-ESTING.
WE'RE NOT GONNA LOSE TO THE LIKES OF YOU.

YEAH.
THAT'S FINE, BUT...
FROM THIS MOMENT ONWARD, WE'RE RIVALS.
THEN...

YUU-KUN?!
IT'S BEEN ANNOYING THE HELL OUT OF ME ALL THIS TIME.
BEFORE ANY OF THAT, COULD YOU DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM?

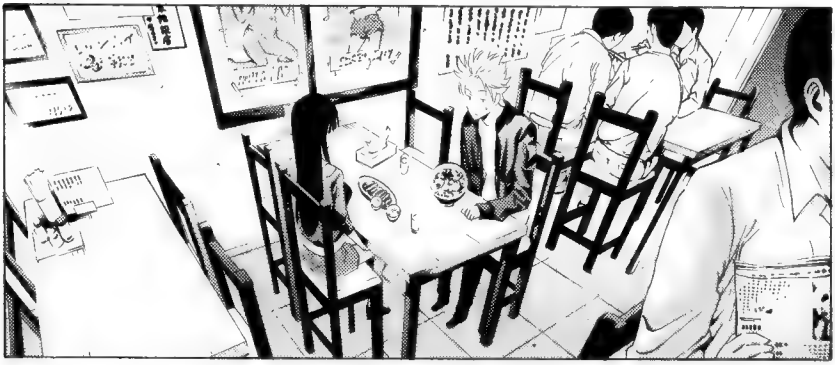
YOU TWO SEEM TO BE ENJOYING YOURSELVES.
ONE COULD ALMOST MISTAKE YOU FOR A HAPPY COUPLE.
WHAT ARE YOU--
HUH?! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?!

UGH!!
ARE YOU?
STOP IT! I'M YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AREN'T I?!
TMP
TMP
WELL, YOU ARE TWO YEARS OLDER THAN ME, FUUKA-SAN.
WHY ARE YOU TALKING SO FORMALLY?
THAT'S NOT-- WE'RE NOT--

MAN, THAT ICHIGO MOCHIZUKI REALLY IS A WEIRDO.
I DON'T DEAL WITH PEOPLE LIKE HER TOO WELL.
HER EYES LOOK LIKE A SNAKE'S.
BY THE WAY...
...COULD WE GRAB SOMETHING TO EAT? JUST US TWO?
THERE'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
...
HUH?
SURE.
FINE BY ME.

174 SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO SAY!

Banners: Chinese Cuisine



SO... WHAT'S THIS IMPORTANT THING YOU WANTED TO TALK ABOUT?
SOME-THING ABOUT THE BAND?
LIVER AND CHIVES WITH RICE!
WELL, NO— IT'S KINDA SOMETHING MORE PERSONAL, ACTUALLY...

MORE PERSONAL?

BUT WITH THE FESTIVAL COMING UP, I WANTED TO SAY THIS TO YOU STRAIGHT.
TO LET YOU KNOW... HOW SERIOUS I AM, AS A GUY.

YEAH, I MEAN... YOU KNOW...
EVERY TIME I SAY STUFF LIKE THIS TO YOU, IT COMES OUT LIKE A JOKE...
...SO I DON'T THINK I EVER REALLY MADE MY POINT.

WAIT, IS HE—
WHAT?

YOU USE WAY TOO MUCH TOILET PAPER!!
HE'S ABOUT TO CONFESS TO ME!
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SAVING UP FOR THE FESTIVAL RIGHT NOW!! DON'T THINK YOU'RE SPECIAL JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE A GIRL!!
THAT HAS TO BE IT! HE SAID " AS A GUY," AFTER ALL!

G-GOOD IDEA!!
IT WON'T BE ANY GOOD ONCE IT GOES COLD!!
I GUESS I'LL TELL YOU WHILE WE EAT!!

OH-- THANKS !!
HERE'S YOUR GYOZA.
HUH ?!
AH, RIGHT!

AT ANY RATE, I NEED TO CHOOSE MY WORDS CAREFULLY AND SAY THIS WITHOUT MAKING HER MAD.
I DON'T WANT HER THROWING WATER ON ME OR SLAPPING ME AGAIN.
ちGLUB?
MAN, IT'S HARD TO BE THE LEADER WHO PICKS UP THE CHECK!!
GLANCE ちら…
UM…

I THINK… I CAN GUESS WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY.
HUH?

YES! GREAT! WE'RE OVER THE FIRST HURDLE!!
WE GOT TO THE SUBJECT WITHOUT HER GETTING MAD!!
CLATTER
REALLY ?!
YEAH.

BY THE WAY, UM... HOW LONG HAVE YOU FELT THIS WAY?
I MEAN...
...ABOUT ME.

HUH?
WELL, YOU KNOW...
RIGHT AFTER WE STARTED LIVING TOGETHER WAS WHEN I NOTICED IT, I GUESS.

YE--
YEAH, IT REALLY IS!
ALMOST AS LONG AS THE TOILET PAPER YOU USE!!

I SEE.
THAT'S A PRETTY LONG TIME.

WHAT?
ERK!!

THUNK
CRAP!! IT WAS GOING SO WELL. AND I GOT IN TOO BIG A HURRY!
TH-THERE'S NO NEED FOR ALL THAT.
I'M SORRY FOR TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE LIKE THAT.
I WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT HOW LONG IT'S BEEN SINCE I REALIZED IT!
S-SORRY!! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, OKAY?!
...
IT NEVER COMES OUT RIGHT BECAUSE I SAY IT LIKE A JOKE.
BUT I'M REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
...
UH— WE DIDN'T ORDER THAT.
HERE'S YOUR RICE.

BESIDES, YOU KNOW...
WE'RE ALSO LIVING WITH FUUKA NOW, SO I'M SURE YOU HAVE YOUR OWN THOUGHTS ABOUT STUFF.
SLURP
SLURP

BUT I'M NOT REALLY SURE HOW TO REACT WHEN YOU SAY IT OUT OF NOWHERE LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE SO SERIOUS ABOUT THIS.
OH... WELL. YEAH, I GET THAT! I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL!

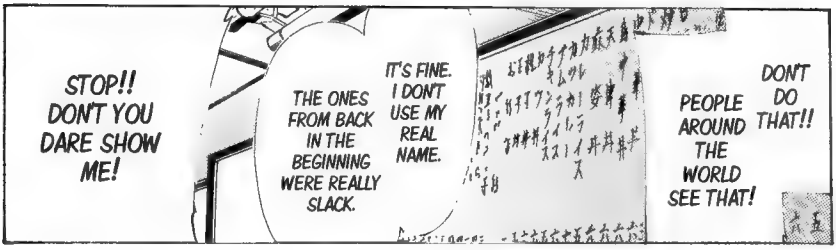
HUH?

WELL, THAT'S TRUE.
I MIGHT HAVE EVEN FELT JEALOUS OF HER A FEW TIMES... IN THAT SENSE.

YOU'RE BOTH GIRLS. BUT YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE LOSING OUT, RIGHT?
I MEAN, SHE'S NOT BOTHERED BY YOU AT ALL.
SO OF COURSE I GET WHY YOU'D WANT TO HOLD BACK.

BUT I REALIZED SOMETHING RECENTLY.
IT'S BEEN LONGER FOR ME THAN FOR FUUKA-CHAN, BUT ALSO... A LOT LIGHTER, I THINK.
LONGER, BUT...
...LIGHTER?
WAIT, WHAT? IS SHE TALKING ABOUT HER POOP?!
IS SHE TALKING ABOUT POOP WHILE WE'RE EATING?! I MEAN, I DO THAT TOO, BUT IT'S GROSS WHEN SOMEONE ELSE DOES!!
I MEAN... YOU KNOW--
Y-YEAH...
NO WORRIES, I GET IT.
IT'S HER CODE WORD FOR HER POOP! LIKE WHEN GIRLS SAY THEY'RE GOING TO "POWDER THEIR NOSES"! WAIT, BUT SHE CALLS HER POOP "YUU-SAN"?! THAT'S JUST WRONG!!
YUU-SAN, OF COURSE.
J-JUST SO I'M CLEAR ON THIS...
IT'S THAT LONG... FOR YOU?
WELL... YEAH.

I HAVE ALL OF THE LOGS ON TWITTER. WANT TO SEE?
THAT'S OKAY! SERIOUSLY?! YOU POST THAT ON TWITTER?!


DON'T DO THAT!!
PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD SEE THAT!
IT'S FINE. I DON'T USE MY REAL NAME.
THE ONES FROM BACK IN THE BEGINNING WERE REALLY SLACK.
STOP!! DON'T YOU DARE SHOW ME!

OF COURSE I DON'T.
WHAT ARE YOU EVEN THINKING?
SERIOUSLY, GIVE ME A BREAK...

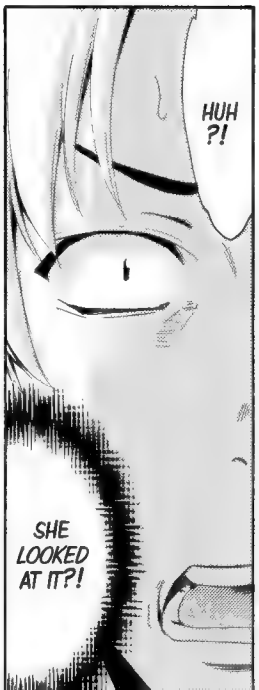
OH... RIGHT.
THAT WAS PRETTY INSENSI-TIVE OF ME.
OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE THAT.

YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY.

I REALIZED THAT BY WATCHING FUUKA-CHAN.
LIKE I SAID, IT MAY HAVE BEEN LONGER IN MY CASE, BUT IT WAS ALSO LIGHTER.
HUH?
BUT-- YOU DON'T REALLY NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

IT WAS MUCH SHORTER, BUT MUCH HEAVIER.
FOR HER-

SO I GUESS THAT'S WHY SHE WAS STRESSING AND HURTING SO MUCH OVER YUU-SAN DURING OUR TOUR.
SHE WAS HURTING DURING THE TOUR. HUH?
-SURE.
IT'S JUST THAT IT COMES A LOT STRAIGHTER AND MORE READILY FOR HER.
OH, I GUESS "HEAVY" IS A MEAN WAY TO PUT IT!
-SORTA.


HUH?!
SHE LOOKED AT IT?!

S-SO YOU'RE SAYING, SINCE FUUKA'S CONSTIPATED...
IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER HER TOILET PAPER'S LONGER OR SHORTER... AND YOU DON'T BLAME HER FOR ANYTHING.
AGAIN?
WHY IS THAT THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN EXPRESS IT?
OH... SORRY.
IT JUST SLIPS OUT WHEN I'M NOT THINK-ING.
I DON'T MIND.
ANYWAY, I'M COMPLETELY PAST THAT.
AND I'M ROOTING FOR FUUKA-CHAN WITH ALL MY HEART NOW, SO DON'T WORRY, OKAY?

I SEE... I GUESS THAT'S FINE, THEN.
I DIDN'T KNOW SHE WAS HAVING SUCH A ROUGH TIME, THOUGH.
WELL, YOU SAW HER, DIDN'T YOU?
WELL-- I DIDN'T NOTICE.
I GUESS IT'S OBVIOUS BETWEEN GIRLS, HUH?
HEE HEE. YOU'RE JUST DENSE, SENPAI.

WELL...
I MEAN...
IT'S NOT AT ALL BAD SEEING YOU THIS SERIOUS. IT GIVES ME A BETTER OPINION OF YOU, ACTUALLY.
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

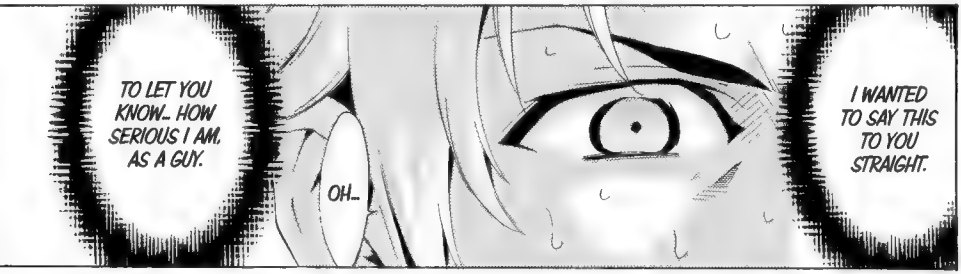
HUH?
SO, YOU'RE SAYING...
...YOU'RE... OKAY WITH IT?

...
...
...YES.

WELL, ANY-WAY... UM...
THIS MEANS YOU GET HOW I FEEL, RIGHT?

ALL RIIIIGHT !!
OH!!
O-OF COURSE! THIS ISN'T THE PLACE. SORRY!!
IT'S SORT OF EMBARASSING WHEN YOU ACT THAT HAPPY ABOUT IT...
IT'S OKAY...
I NEVER EVEN IMAGINED...
...THAT YOU'D CONFESS TO ME IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.

KER-THUMP
...WHAT?


I WANTED TO SAY THIS TO YOU STRAIGHT.
OH...
TO LET YOU KNOW... HOW SERIOUS I AM, AS A GUY.

WH-WHOA.
WAIT A MIN-UTE!!
WHAT I WANTED TO SAY WAS--

REMEMBER WHEN I WAS FEELING DOWN AT LAKE YAMANAKA AND IN ENGLAND, AND YOU CHEERED ME UP?
NOW THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED, I CAN TELL YOU HOW HAPPY THAT MADE ME.
I THINK I WAS ABLE TO TRY MY HARDEST THOSE TIMES BECAUSE OF YOU.

THANK YOU...
...FOR FALLING IN LOVE WITH ME.
WHA--

HUH?
BA-DUM

NO--
SHE'S
REALLY
CUTE!!
WHAT
THE--
SHE'S
ACTUALLY
KINDA
CUTE.

TO,
UM--
DO
OUR
BEST
AT THE
FESTI-
VAL...
YEAH,
LET'S!

OH.
TO--
ANYWAY,
WERE YOU
ABOUT
TO SAY
SOME-
THING?

三笠
SIGN: MIKASA
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
SO...
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?

Fuuka
WE CAN'T HELP FEELING THIS IS EXTREME OVERKILL.
BUT REALLY, PULLING TOGETHER ALL THESE MAJOR MUSICIANS FOR A FESTIVAL, JUST TO DESTROY A ROOKIE BAND?
TRUE.
THAT CERTAINLY DID SURPRISE ME.
I BET EVEN YOU NEVER EXPECTED THEM TO GET SHELLEY HORNET ON THEIR SIDE.
YOU SEEM TO BE HAVING QUITE A LOT OF TROUBLE...
...WITH THIS BLUE-WHAT-EVER BAND.

AND NOW ALL THESE YOUNG MUSICIANS ARE COMING FORWARD, THINKING THEY'VE FOUND SOME RIGHTEOUS CAUSE...
...AND AGREEING TO TAKE PART IN THEIR FESTIVAL.
DO THEY REALLY THINK THEY CAN PULL OFF AN EVENT LIKE THAT?

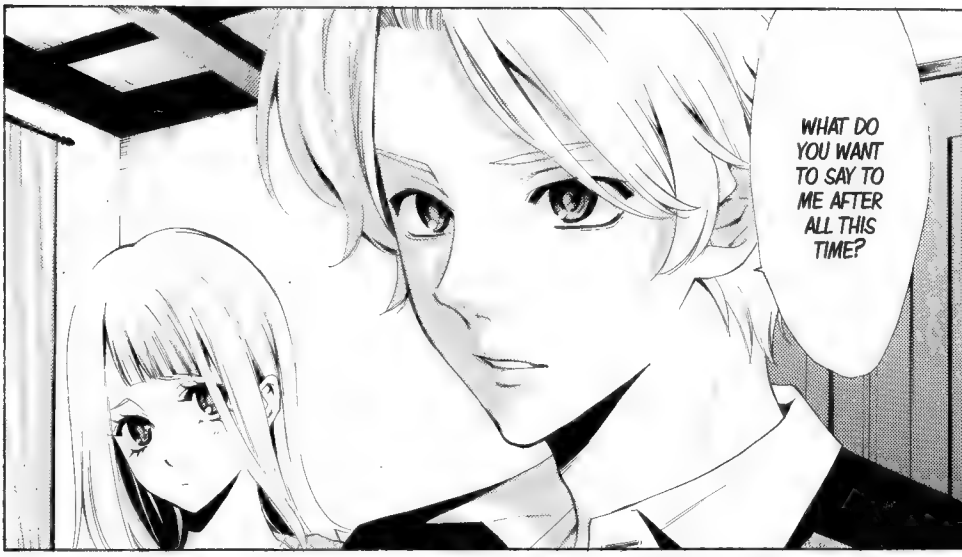
YIKES— YOU'RE PLOTTING SOMETHING NASTY AGAIN, AREN'T YOU, IKOMA-SAN?
BUT WOULD IT REALLY BE WISE FOR ZETA MUSIC TO INTERFERE MORE?
ME? NASTY?

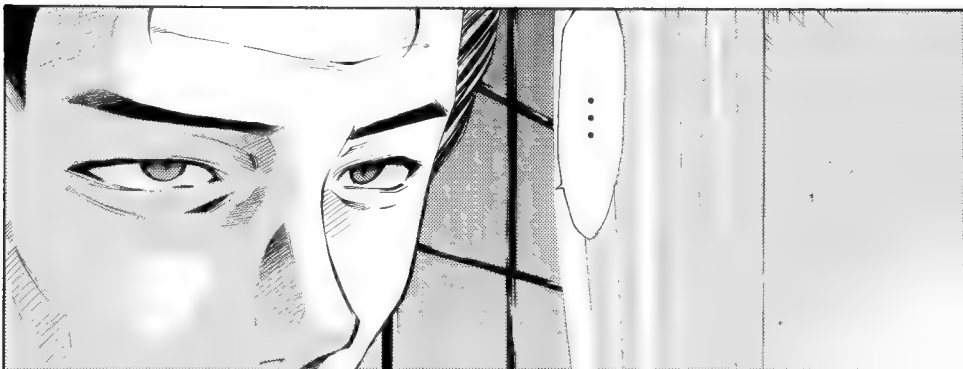
BESIDES, MY AGENCY DOESN'T NEED TO DO ANYTHING.
I HAVE SOME VERY DEPENDABLE BUSINESS PARTNERS, AFTER ALL.

BE IT IN BUSINESS, IN POLITICS, OR IN WAR...
RIGHT AND WRONG DEPENDS ENTIRELY ON WHO WINS, AND WHO DOESN'T.

175 THE FIST OF DETERMINATION.

SO...
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?


WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO ME AFTER ALL THIS TIME?


...

HOW LONG TO YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE WITH SUCH POINTLESS NON-SENSE?
I BELIEVE I TOLD YOU THAT YOU'RE SULLYING THIS FAMILY'S NAME.
WITH ALL DUE RE-SPECT...
...YOU'VE ALREADY KICKED ME OUT OF YOUR FAMILY.
I DON'T SEE WHY I SHOULD PARTICULARLY CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY ABOUT THE FAMILY'S NAME.
HEY, MAKOTO!
YOU HARDLY EVER COME HOME, SO YOU COULD AT LEAST BE NICE--
SAYING SUCH THINGS ONLY PROVES THAT YOU'RE STILL A CHILD.
PAR-DON?
KREE
IY

ZETA MUSIC.
THEY'RE AN IMPORTANT CLIENT OF MINE.
AND I HEAR THAT THERE IS A DISPUTE BETWEEN THEM AND YOUR BAND'S COMPANY.
THANKS TO THAT, I'VE HAD TO PUT UP WITH A LOT OF SNIDE COMMENTS FROM IKOMA.
ANYWAY, I HEAR YOUR SON HAS SOME RATHER... UNUSUAL TASTES.
IF WORD OF THAT GETS OUT, IT WOULDN'T LOOK VERY GOOD FOR THE MIKASA GROUP, WOULD IT?
!!

LISTEN TO ME, MAKOTO.
QUIT YOUR SENSELESS MUSIC RIGHT NOW AND COME HOME.
DO THAT AND I'LL FORGET EVERYTHING ELSE.
TRY TO UNDER-STAND.
YOU'RE ONLY GETTING A SECOND CHANCE BECAUSE YOU'RE MY SON.
...

...
MA-KO-TO!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING YOUR SON?
HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANY OF THE THINGS A FATHER OUGHT TO DO FOR ME OR MIKOTO?
BEING TIED TO THIS FAMILY FOR THE SAKE OF APPEARANCES IS NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR ME.
I WANT...
...TO LIVE MY LIFE FREELY.

WHAP
BAM
I'M TELLING YOU THAT I'M THE ONE SUFFERING NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
!!
MAKO-TO!!

LISTEN TO ME! DON'T YOU DARE GO AGAINST ZETA MUSIC AGAIN...
...OR I'LL PUT AN END TO WHATEVER SILLY FESTIVAL YOU'RE PLANNING!
...!!

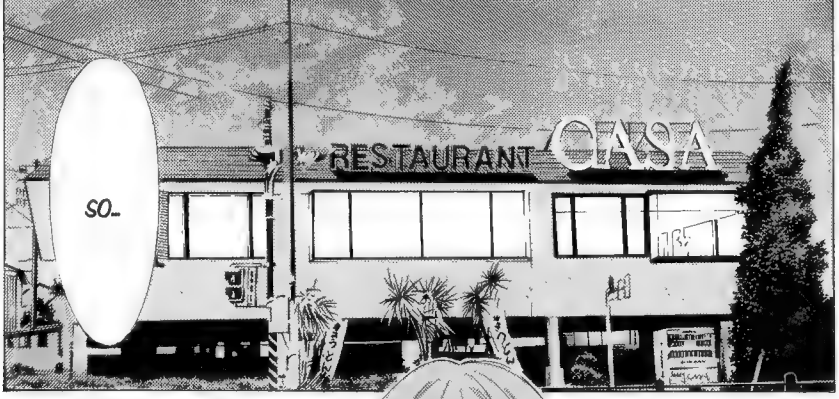
...OUR FESTI-VAL?
YOU'LL STOP...
I ONLY NEED TO MAKE ONE PHONE CALL. RIGHT HERE AND NOW.
IT'S A SIMPLE MATTER.
ALL YOU'RE DOING IS DEFYING YOUR FATHER OUT OF SELFISHNESS!
LIVE FREELY? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
THAT'S CRUEL.
...
WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?

POW

HGK --!
RIGHT HERE!!
LET'S HAVE A FESTIVAL
JUST TRY DOING ANYTHING TO MY FRIENDS.
HOW DARE YOU--

I'LL FUCKING KILL YOU!!
!!

STOP IT, BOTH OF YOU!!
PLEASE DON'T FIGHT!!
AH--
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
SLAM
JUST KEEP QUIET AND WATCH.
IF OUR FESTIVAL FAILS, YOU'LL GET EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT ANYWAY.


RESTAURANT CASA
SO...

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHAT DID YOUR FATHER WANT?

I SAID...
...WHAT DID YOUR FATHER WANT?!
OH. IT WASN'T ANYTHING IMPOR-TANT.
HUH?

AND HE SAID HE'D BE CHEERING US ON.
APPARENTLY HE HEARD WE WERE PUTTING ON A FESTIVAL...
BUT...
...
I LIKE YOU WHEN YOU'RE SMILING, TOMOMI-SAN.
SO DON'T WORRY SO MUCH.

ALL RIGHT!
BETTER DO YOUR BEST AT THE FESTIVAL, THEN!
...
YOU'RE SO RIGHT.
I SWEAR I'LL MAKE IT AN AMAZING FESTIVAL.
NOW THAT I'M RELIEVED, I'M HUNGRY!
HEY, MIND IF I ORDER CARBONARA?!
AH HA HA. THAT'LL MAKE YOU FAT.
JEEZ!! YOU ALWAYS SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!!
SO THAT I CAN BE WHO I TRULY AM.
To be continued in Vol. 19

BONUS MANGA
KOYUKI'S LOVEY-DOVEY THREE MINUTE COOKING ♡

THREE MINUTE COOKING IS A POPULAR JAPANESE TV PROGRAM.

AND TODAY'S SPECIAL GUEST IS ONE MR. HARUNA, WHO SOMEHOW GOT HIMSELF A GIRLFRIEND RECENTLY!
WE'RE GOING TO GO ALL-OUT!!
HEY, TAMA-CHAN, WHY ARE YOU TALKING TO THE WALL?
AND I'M RIGHT HERE.

*A CAKE WITH STRAWBERRIES ON TOP IS A COMMON CHRISTMAS DESSERT IN JAPAN.

...
GRR
KOYUKI-CHAN, HAVE YOU EVER BAKED ANYTHING BEFORE?
I CAN HELP OUT, SO IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU DON'T KNOW, JUST ASK.
NOW... SINCE CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST UPON US, I THOUGHT WE'D MAKE A SHORTCAKE WITH STRAWBERRIES ON TOP*!!
EVEN A MONKEY CAN COOK

HERE'S A POP QUIZ FOR NIKO-KUN!! SOMEBODY HAS A BIRTHDAY IN DECEMBER. WHO IS IT?
OW!
OH, IS THAT RIGHT?!
HUH?
IT'S... JULY 20...
OKAY, I WILL. FUUKA-CHAN, WHAT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY?

DECEM-BER...?
HUH...?

...

YOU DID. I CAN TELL.
NO! NEVER!
YOU FORGOT.
YOUR BIRTH-DAY IS AL-MOST HERE!
OH! YOU WERE BORN IN DECEM-BER, WEREN'T YOU, TAMA-CHAN?!
...!!

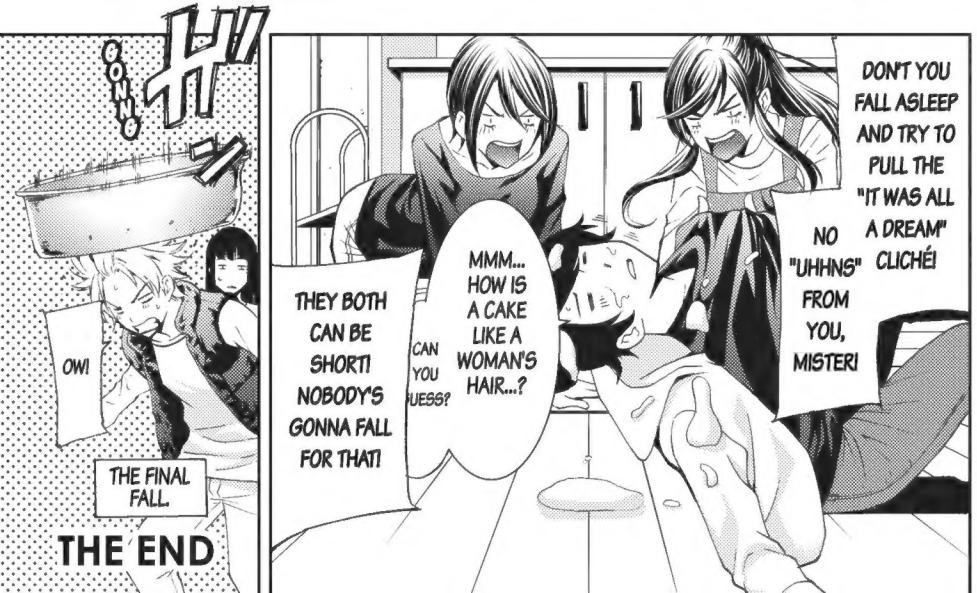
UM... DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD START BAKING?
I MEAN, WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING YET.
HUUH ...?
TSK!
UH... FIRST, YOU POUR IN FLOUR AND EGGS AND MIX ALL SORTS OF STUFF TOGETHER TO MAKE BATTER...
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THEN YOU LEAVE IT IN THE FRIDGE FOR A WHILE. AFTER THAT, YOU BAKE IT IN THE OVEN, DECORATE IT...
AND IT COMES OUT LIKE THIS!
YOU SKIPPED OVER A LOT!!
AND YOU BOUGHT THAT CAKE, DIDN'T YOU?

EXCUSE ME?
ピキッ
TWIK
STOP NIT-PICKING!
AW, JUST BE QUIET!
DON'T FIGHT, OKAY?
YOU'RE ACTING KINDA... SCARY.
WH-WHY DON'T YOU BOTH CALM DOWN...
IT'S SPONGECAKE! MIX UP THE BATTER, SWIRL SWIRL! MIX IT UP, SWIRL SWIRL! ♡
I KNOW WHAT CAN TURN THAT FROWN UPSIDE DOWN!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT'S TOO BAD FUUKA-CHAN IS IN SUCH A BAD MOOD, HUH?
HMM ...?
HMM ...?
AND ...
ズリッ
SLIDE

SWIPE
WHAM!!
AUUUGH!
GAGRAAGH

WHAT DID YOU JUST DO TO NIKO-KUN?!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID IT!!
IF YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH ME, LET'S HEAR IT!

UHHN...


DON'T YOU FALL ASLEEP AND TRY TO PULL THE "IT WAS ALL A DREAM" CLICHÉ!
NO "UHHNS" FROM YOU, MISTER!
MMM... HOW IS A CAKE LIKE A WOMAN'S HAIR...?
CAN YOU GUESS?
THEY BOTH CAN BE SHORT! NOBODY'S GONNA FALL FOR THAT!
CONK
OW!
THE FINAL FALL.
THE END

Fuuka 18

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